

Italy threatens Mogadishu pullout

ROME (R) — Italy asked the United Nations Tuesday for its troops to be pulled out of Mogadishu unless agreement could be reached on the operation of the U.N. mission in the Somali capital. Foreign Minister General Boutros Ghali said he told U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali the Italian troops should be moved north of Mogadishu unless an agreement could be reached. About two-thirds of the nearly 2,600 Italian troops with the U.N. force in Somalia are already based north of the capital. Mr. Andreotti's remarks followed fierce Italian criticism on Monday of a U.N. military strike led by American helicopter gunships on a command centre in Mogadishu of fugitive warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed (see story below). Mr. Andreotti said he had told Dr. Ghali by telephone that differences over the conduct of U.N. operations in Mogadishu "make the Italian presence (there) difficult."

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Israel wants price for dialogue with PLO
Combined agency despatches

TEL AVIV — Israel is pursuing quiet contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but is demanding concessions in return for an official dialogue, Labour Party sources said Tuesday.

Official denials that secret meetings have taken place between Israeli and PLO representatives have been less than convincing, despite angry right-wing accusations of a sell-out.

"Individuals have had sporadic contacts with the PLO of which the prime minister has been kept up-to-date," Health Minister Chaim Ramon admitted Tuesday. "But they had no mandate to start negotiations," he told the radio.

According to Israeli television, Mr. Rabin has refused to issue a straight denial of quiet contacts with the PLO over the peace talks. He said only that Israel is negotiating in Washington an interim autonomy agreement with Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres added another twist saying: "Those who are negotiating with the Palestinian delegation are in fact negotiating with those whom the delegation are consulting."

The delegation takes orders from the PLO and openly consults with Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Addressing the Labour parliamentary party, Mr. Peres ruled out direct talks with the PLO "for the moment."

"I want to be clear, in negotiations some things have to remain obscure," Mr. Peres said.

A majority of Labour deputies backed dialogue with the PLO, even those who were against, such as Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, though simply that the time was not right, journalists reported. They did not object in principle.

Mr. Arafat sent conflicting signals on PLO contacts with Israel, saying that there had been meetings to break deadlock in the peace talks but later adding that it had meant something different.

The PLO chairman told Reuters initially that PLO high-ranking officials met Israeli officials in Washington in a failed attempt to advance the peace process.

"There were two meetings last month in Washington during the (Middle East peace) negotiations rounds, and they were unsuccesful," he said.

But later on Monday, Mr. Arafat said that what he meant was that "there were Palestinian attempts to meet the Israelis in Washington but that these attempts failed and the meetings did not take place."

He said that despite the failure the PLO remained ready for contacts. "I appealed for a meeting (with Mr. Rabin) to make an honourable peace... and I have renewed the appeal last month at the Organisation of African Unity summit (OAU) in Cairo," he said.

He said the ball was now in Israel's court.

"Ever since Mr. Rabin lifted a ban on contact with the PLO in February, growing numbers of Israeli left-wing members of parliament and 'private' citizens have been meeting publicly with PLO officials from Mr. Arafat on down."

The left claims that up to 11 ministers in Mr. Rabin's centre-left coalition favour direct dialogue with the Tunis-based PLO as means of helping foundering the peace talks.

They say Israel is already talking to Mr. Arafat indirectly by meeting Faisal Al Hussein and other leaders of the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians. The PLO as an organisation cannot officially take part in the 20-month-old peace talks.

Mr. Rabin, who would need a national consensus to push through any peace accord with the Palestinians, rules out direct contact with the PLO.

Palestinians say U.S. efforts encouraging

Combined agency despatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians described talks Tuesday with the U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace negotiations as encouraging but said no breakthrough that would narrow differences with Israel had been reached.

"Today, we had a rather lengthy meeting in which they (the U.S. team) presented us with their initial, general responses to our draft formulation on territorial jurisdiction," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told reporters.

Dr. Ashrawi said a paper Palestinians had presented to the U.S. coordinator, Dennis Ross, Monday was a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "formulation" dealing with the territorial dimension of a future Palestinian self-government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It's too early to reach any agreement with us but they responded to our formulations in ways that were encouraging," she after meeting Mr. Ross in Arab East Jerusalem.

Both the Palestinians and Israel were not happy with a U.S. paper aimed at bridging their differences, especially regarding Jerusalem, that was presented at the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks earlier this month in Washington.

Mr. Ross said the new proposals: "We had asked the Palestinians to give us a number of specific formulations. "They have given us a formulation that touches a number of key issues and we are going to discuss

it." Dr. Ashrawi reiterated calls for Israel to hold direct talks with the PLO. "If they negotiate with the PLO, it would be the easiest way to achieve results.

"They would be lending the negotiations real vigour and real momentum," she said amid reports of clandestine meetings between PLO and Israeli officials. (See separate story)

Dr. Ashrawi saw a "possibility" that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would visit the Middle East shortly following up Mr. Ross's mission.

Secretary Christopher will have to assess progress and developments and will have to make up his mind," she said.

Mr. Ross was due to wrap up a six-day shuttle trip to the Middle East focussed on resuscitating the peace talks which have made little progress in the 20 months since they were launched.

He also met Syrian and Jordanian leaders in Damascus and Amman and Egyptian leaders in Cairo during his swing through the region. He opened his tour in Israel last week.

Back in occupied Jerusalem Tuesday, he first held two hours of talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in West Jerusalem before going to see the Palestinians.

Mr. Ross said after meeting

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Ekeus to give Baghdad 'last chance' to meet U.N. demand

Combined agency despatches

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council president says Iraq is "playing with fire" by not cooperating with U.N. weapons inspectors, and a senior U.N. envoy is heading to Iraq to drive that point home.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. commission on Iraq's weapons prepared to leave New York for Baghdad Tuesday night, giving Iraq a final warning that it is risking another U.S. military attack by not cooperating.

Russia gave its strong backing on Tuesday, urging Iraq in a foreign ministry statement to "put an end without delay to its tactics of evasion, procrastination and cat-and-mouse game with the U.N. Security Council."

Iraq was one of the Soviet Union's main allies in the Middle East until former President Mikhail Gorbachev ended the Kremlin's confrontational stance towards the West and joined U.N. sanctions against several countries.

President Bill Clinton, on vacation in Hawaii, said he will leave the issue up to the United Nations for now.

"They've got a strategy. I want to let them do their work for a couple of days before I say anything," he said.

Security Council diplomats made clear the United Nations may have to destroy two rocket test sites near Baghdad if Iraq persisted in preventing U.N. inspectors from

installing video monitors there. David Hamm, the Security Council president and British ambassador, said weapons inspectors "would have to consider destruction" of the two sites if Iraq rejects other solutions, such as the television monitoring.

"The Iraqi government is playing with fire, and I hope they will stop playing with fire," he told reporters after the 15-member council authorised Mr. Ekeus' visit.

Iraq warned its people Tuesday that the outcome of the standoff could be more American air strikes.

"The U.S. and its allies will not hesitate to direct another blow against Iraq, and they are preparing to do so," the Defence Ministry said in a front-page editorial.

American warships launched two dozen Cruise missiles at intelligence headquarters in Baghdad two weeks ago in retaliation for an alleged plot to kill former U.S. President George Bush.

Many Iraqis believe the visit by Mr. Ekeus as a public relations move to clear the way for another attack.

Al Qadissiya gave no hint of compromise in the dispute.

It said Iraq had fully complied with U.N. Resolution 687, which ordered the dismantling of its weapons of mass destruction, but the United Nations had not lifted trade sanctions in return.

Iraq says it accepts in principle long-term monitoring to ensure it

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Ms. Faisal, former presenter of a television series on women's affairs, who has challenged conservative Muslim views on topics like polygamy and marital assault.

"The fundamentalists tried to distort my image, but I had enough time to show otherwise," she said.

The run-up to what is expected to be a fevered election — the first multi-party polls since 1956 — is turning a spotlight on women and the failure to integrate them into the politics of Jordan, a small Kingdom bordered by Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Israel.

In sharp contrast with Ms. Faisal, most women's rights advocates doubt women will make any election gains. Many want the government to allocate parliamentary seats for

women until their participation in public life becomes fully accepted.

The proposal for quotas has sparked heated debate and split the ranks of women — half of Jordan's 3.9 million population.

Many, like Ms. Faisal, say quotas are undemocratic and violate constitutional guarantees of equality for all Jordanians.

Under present rules, 12 of Jordan's 80 parliamentary seats are reserved for the Christian, Shiites and Circassian minorities.

"We form half the society so why should we be treated like minorities?" asked Souad Salem, a typist.

But Khadija Habashneh, from Jordan's Centre for Women Studies, said quotas

are the only way to ensure grassroots power to women.

"Discrimination against females exists. We have to start from there to reach equality," she said during a recent lecture on "Women and the Local Elections."

Others fear that in the absence of a powerful feminist movement, a quota system will give organised political groups, like the fundamentalist Muslim brotherhood, a free hand to impose women who share their views.

"The fundamentalist women will take over (under a quota) and will make it even more difficult for other women to get there," said Fatima Masaed, a chemist. "Under a quota we will not get qualified women."

Most members of the Brotherhood, the single largest

bloc in Parliament, say women should strictly follow religion and obey their husbands.

They should stay at home and rear children or have careers as teachers or nurses which do not challenge men.

Many officials believe women's limited experience in public work and lack of funds to finance the costly election campaign are further handicaps in their political battle.

Women won the right to vote and to stand for parliament in 1974, but none contested any of the by-elections held since.

Women form only 12 percent of the work force of 550,000. Two women have served as cabinet ministers and one is a senator, but none has held a top post in the judiciary and few have become senior

civil servants.

Women who voted in past elections tended to follow their husband's preferences and many do so again. A large number of men still see women as unfit for public life.

"I will never put my trust in a woman," said Ahmad Salem, a driver. "She is only fit to raise children and clean the house."

Taher Al Masri, a former prime minister and long-time deputy who has championed women's rights said the government was convinced women should play a bigger role in political life.

"But what puzzles us is that women do not help women," he told Reuters. "Women should also take the blame not only the men and the system."

Majali calls on citizens to exercise the right to vote

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Al Salam Al Majali Tuesday urged Jordanians to "exercise their constitutional rights and vote in the coming parliamentary election." The prime minister called on Jordanians to register their names in the voters lists so as to ensure their right to vote in the elections, scheduled for November.

Dr. Majali was speaking after a visit to the Interior Ministry where he attended part of a meeting by a Public Safety Committee.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Majali said that the ministry had "made arrangements and provided all facilities to ensure that citizens would not have any difficulties in registering for the coming elections and in obtaining the necessary voting cards."

The Crown Prince, repeating a call he made at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna last month, said: "We need to affect a new world constitution for human behaviour, regulating relationships among individuals, as well as between individuals and governments."

The Crown Prince warned that calls for peaceful initiatives to resolve conflict and tolerance towards critics did not mean a weakness but rather a strength. "I sincerely hope that a call for Islamic tolerance will not be mistaken for a gesture that implies leniency, submission, and capitulation in the face of might," he said.

Observers expect a higher turnout at the ballots to work against the Muslim-Brotherhood movement, saying the increased turnout would be outside its constituencies which enjoyed the highest percentage of voters' participation in the 1989 elections.

The prime minister's call on citizens to register for voting came one week after King Hussein asked the government to hold the elections for Jordan's 12th Parliament on their constitutional date.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times this week that the government will soon announce a date for the elections after initiating the process of introducing amendments to the Election Law and dissolving parliament, the majority of whose members favour the current legislation.

The body of a fourth journalist was retrieved soon after Monday's attack. A television cameraman and a reporter also were wounded when Somalis attacked reporters, photographers and television crew after U.N. forces blasted a clan leader's compound.

Supporters of warlord Mohammad Farrah Aideed said 73 Somalis died and 200 were wounded in the U.N. assault. U.N. officials disputed that, saying Tuesday that 15 Somalis were killed and 15 wounded.

In three attacks on U.N. troops in Mogadishu since the assault on the compound, five peacekeepers were wounded, one of them seriously, officials said Tuesday. No details were immediately available.

The body of Associated Press photographer Dan Eldon, 22, was removed by a military helicopter Monday from the vicinity of the villa attacked by American troops in the 29-nation U.N. peacekeeping alliance. Mr. Eldon, a dual U.S.-British citizen, appeared to have been beaten with stones and rifle butts.

All three corps had been moved far from the site of the attack, which suggested that Somali gunmen hoped to lure U.N. troops into trying to retrieve them to lay an ambush.

"Their bodies are surrounded by snipers. They will kill anyone they think works for the U.N. who tries to pick them up," said

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Relief picks up in south of Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — A train convoy carrying 50,000 tonnes of commercial food and supplies has arrived in the famine-struck southern town of Wau without being attacked by rebels, newspapers said.

For most of the 10 years of civil war in southern Sudan, towns like Wau, 1,000 kilometres south of Khartoum, have been reachable only by air because of rebel attacks on train, truck and river routes.

The safety situation meant only limited amounts of food at exorbitant prices could reach the besieged towns, exacerbating the war-caused famine situation which has killed more than one million people in the last decade.

According to the United Nations, an estimated four million of Sudan's 27 million inhabitants are said to be facing starvation, disease, homelessness or terrorising warfare. Both the government and rebels have used food as a weapon in the war, and transporting relief food to affected government and rebel-held areas remains a critical issue.

The newspapers heralded the arrival of the three trains in Wau Sunday. They said in recent months, only one out of five train convoys was attacked and robbed by rebels. This reflects the army control over the region.

The main rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has been beleaguered by infighting with splinter groups as well as the loss of its main ally, Ethiopia, a year ago. This allowed the government last year to retake more than one dozen rebel-held towns. There has been a ceasefire in the south since February, but both sides have accused the others of violations. Peace talks mediated by Nigeria have made little progress.

The war has been a drain on the faltering economy of Sudan. One of the main problems Khartoum dwellers face are periodic gasoline shortages.

In the past three months, the gasoline shortage became so bad that the government lowered the weekly ration per car to two gallons of partially subsidised gasoline, and then cancelled even that.

In an effort to resolve the shortage, the government announced Monday that private oil companies will be allowed to import and sell rationed gasoline at commercial prices.

The subsidised gasoline sold at 150 Sudanese pounds (\$1) per gallon. The commercial gasoline, available starting Thursday, will cost 400 Sudanese pounds (\$2.7) per gallon, and each car owner is only allowed five gallons a week.

WFP expands airdrops

AFP adds from Nairobi: The World Food Programme (WFP) has increased its airdrops of food to southern Sudan's towns and villages where some 800,000 people are in dire need, the U.N. agency has announced.

For the first time the WFP is dropping food from Khartoum in twice-daily flights over the remote villages of Thiet and Akon in the southern Bahri Al Ghazal province, the WFP said.

The statement said the drops began Sunday with food donated by the Khartoum government.

Last month the WFP launched the food drops from an airbase in north Kenya when heavy rains made it impossible for aircraft to land on dirt airstrips in southern Sudan. So far the agency has dropped more than 1,000 tonnes of cereals, beans and seeds.

The WFP is also using barges to ferry food from Malakal.

Turkish pipeline still obstacle in Iraq oil talks

Combined Agency Dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — Talks on allowing Iraq to sell a limited amount of oil to obtain humanitarian goods inched forward Monday but diplomats said the terminal for shipping the oil was still an obstacle.

"It went better, at least we had a dialogue," said one source close to the talks without elaborating.

The same sources were pessimistic over the weekend, saying negotiations with U.N. officials were deadlocked and Iraq had not changed its position from last year. The talks continued Tuesday.

Before Monday's session ended, Chinmaya Gharehkan, a UN official to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, told the Security Council the two positions were "still far apart," diplomats at the meeting reported.

He said the point of shipment for the oil was a major problem and that the council would receive a paper shortly setting out the Iraqi and United Nations positions.

Iraq wants oil shipped through its Gulf terminal of Mina Al Bakr while the United States and Britain want most of the oil flowing through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline.

They believe it can be monitored easier at the Turkish outlet and do not want to deprive Ankara of revenues after its help in the 1991 Gulf war.

Iraq's delegation, led by the under-secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Riyadh Al Qasim, declined to comment but said previously he would "stay as long as necessary."

U.N. sources said it remained to be seen whether Iraq had simply taken a tough opening position and might be more flexible during the week. Some envoys believe Dr. Ghali might step in if it appears the talks might collapse.

At issue are two resolutions

passed by the U.N. Security Council in 1991 that ordered Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil to pay for its own humanitarian supplies. A third of the proceeds would go for U.N. costs in destroying Iraqi weapons and a reparation fund for war victims.

So far no deal has been reached on the talks without elaborating.

U.N. officials also declined to comment publicly on progress or content of the talks. Under-Secretary-General Carl-August Fleischhauer, head of the legal department, is leading the U.N. team.

Crude oil prices on the New York mercantile exchange have fallen sharply in recent weeks on fears the negotiations may bring more oil to an already well-supplied market.

The Iraqi delegation also has been at pains to separate the oil talks from the latest crisis of U.N. monitoring of two missile bases in Baghdad.

Iraqis reply to Gore

Iraq's ambassador to Japan responded Monday to remarks by U.S. Vice President Al Gore, saying the "Iraqi conflict is with the United Nations and not with the United States," the Iraqi News Agency said.

On Sunday, Mr. Gore said, "(Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) should understand very clearly that he cannot trifle with the world community," adding that the United Nations could now demand Iraq destroy the missile test sites that are at the centre of the latest Iraqi confrontation with the West.

The Iraqi agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a report from the BBC Arabic service, which in turn quoted the ambassador, Rashid Al Rifai.

"Is Mr. Gore a representative for the United Nations, or he thinks that the Security Council

also was replying to Mr. Gore's remarks when he issued a statement saying the problem lay in "the new and serious manner in which requests are made. This new manner is provocative and is aimed at harming Iraq."

It was not clear if this was a reference to Mr. Gore, but he was quoted as saying the requests made by the U.N. special commission for dismantling Iraq's weapons were made for political reasons that had nothing to do with the Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Ramadan insisted that Iraq had allowed U.N. experts to inspect military sites and installations but denounced demands for surveillance cameras and equipment seals as "provocative."

The objective, he charged, "is to ignore Iraq's request for sanctions to be lifted." Economic sanctions were imposed on Baghdad by the U.N. Security Council following Iraq's 1990 seizure of Kuwait.

The official who spoke of the

and the United Nations are departments in the American foreign ministry and that's why he speaks about them as he likes?" Mr. Rifai was quoted as asking.

"Why doesn't the secretary general of the United Nations speak, or president of the Security Council...and why do the Americans speak about United Nations causes?"

United Nations ceasefire resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war require the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. The present confrontation is over Iraq's rejection of "surveillance cameras at two test sites, which the U.N. wants to ensure are not used to develop long-range missiles."

The Iraqi News Agency also briefly quoted Iraqi Vice-President Tahia Yasin Ramadan as saying Iraq has no problem with the issue of U.N. weapons inspections, only the manner in which the requests are made.

The agency said Mr. Ramadan also was replying to Mr. Gore's remarks when he issued a statement saying the problem lay in "the new and serious manner in which requests are made. This new manner is provocative and is aimed at harming Iraq."

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CIA officer approved sheikh's visa to U.S.

By Ruth Sinai

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officer serving in Sudan approved the permit for Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman to enter the United States in 1990, not knowing the Egyptian cleric was ineligible because of alleged ties with "terrorists", a U.S. official says.

The CIA denies any connection with Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The agency, as a matter of routine, does not comment on its operations abroad. The role of the CIA official was first reported by Newsweek.

The inspector-general's investigation found that the CIA officer at the embassy in Khartoum did not recognise Sheikh Abdul Rahman by name, said the official.

The U.S. official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said the CIA officer approved Sheikh Abdul Rahman's tourist visa request after Sudanese U.S. embassy consular clerk assured him that the sheikh's name was not on a list of "undesirable aliens."

The question of how the sheikh entered this country arose after some of his alleged followers were arrested in connection with the February World Trade Center bombing, and an alleged plot thwarted last month by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to blow up New York City landmarks.

The findings are contained in a classified report by the State Department's inspector-general, assisted by the CIA's inspector general, said the official, who is familiar with the report.

The investigation found that a series of "bureaucratic mistakes" allowed Sheikh Abdul Rahman to repeatedly skirt State Department and Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) controls, said Representatives Olympia J. Snowe, one of several lawmakers briefed on the report. Parts of the report will be made public.

The official who spoke of the

report's findings noted that Sheikh Abdul Rahman did not travel to Pakistan — the staging point for the Afghan rebels fighting in neighbouring Afghanistan — until 1990, after the Soviets had pulled out.

Also, Sheikh Abdul Rahman was affiliated with the most religious Muslim faction of the rebels, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who was mistrusted by the CIA, the official noted.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. says it regrets deaths in Somalia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States said Monday it regretted the loss of life in a U.N.-backed U.S. attack in Somalia but said that more such attacks may be necessary. "We regret any loss of life in connection with this mission," said State Department spokesman Michael McCurry, noting that the two journalists killed and two others missing and feared dead since the attack had not been harmed by U.N. troops. Somalis set upon the four photographers after U.S. Army helicopters fired rockets at buildings occupied by the warlord's supporters. Mr. McCurry also stressed that the highest death toll in the attack, more than 100, had been provided by supporters of Somali warlord General Mohammad Farah Aideed, who has had a \$25,000 price on his head since the June 5 killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers. The United Nations gave an initial death toll of 13 while two local hospitals reported receiving about 30 dead. "It was a precision-directed (U.S.) attack that occurred under the auspices of U.N. Security Council Resolution 837," the State Department spokesman said. "It was designed to continue the pressure on the Aideed faction to stop interfering with the provision of humanitarian relief aid and disrupting civilian authority," he added. Mr. McCurry declined to respond to Italy's request that military operations be suspended and priority given to peace talks.

Dutchman faces drug charges in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Moroccan police have charged a Dutchman with drug trafficking after finding 4.7 tonnes of hashish hidden in a truckload of ready-made clothing bound for Europe. Officials said Monday the Dutch driver of the truck, Ferdinand Nicolas Pirovano, 43, was arrested in Casablanca at the weekend. The haul brought to nearly 50 tonnes the amount of hashish seized since October when the government launched a major drive against drug trafficking to Europe. More than 160 Europeans are at present serving jail sentences in Morocco after being convicted of drug offences.

Brazil minister denies ties with PLO

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Justice Minister Mauricio Correa Monday denied he had received financial support from representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Brazil when he ran for senator in 1986. According to the respected Jornal do Brasil newspaper, the government has a dossier alleging that Mr. Correa received \$500,000 in campaign funds at a 1986 dinner at which PLO representatives were present. "The minister has denied (the allegations). This story of receiving money from the PLO never happened," a ministry spokesman said. Last week Mr. Correa, who is in charge of the federal police, was at the centre of controversy after police allowed a key figure in the corruption scandal that toppled former President Fernando Collor last December to slip through their hands. Mr. Correa and the federal police have been embarrassed by their inability to locate Paulo Cesar Farias, the alleged mastermind behind the scheme that brought down Collor. According to the Jornal do Brasil, the former head of the federal police used the Dossier as blackmail against Mr. Correa to avoid punishment for Mr. Farias' escape. The minister has denied being the target of blackmail. A spokesman for Mr. Franco denied the president had received the dossier, but the allegations have threatened to submerge the government in a crisis just as police threaten to strike on July 15.

Rushdie calls for support for dissidents

LONDON (AFP) — British author Salman Rushdie has urged the Western press to pay more attention to "progressive" voices in the Islamic World and appealed for support for dissident voices in fundamentalist regimes. The extensive reporting of "international Islamic terrorism," such as the bombing of the World Trade Centre, compared to the limited reporting of "domestic Iranian terrorism," represented a "victory for fanaticism," he said. "If the worst, most reactionary, most medievalist strain in the Muslim world is treated as the authentic culture, so that the mullahs get all the headlines, while progressive, modernising voices are treated as minor, marginal...as small news — then the fundamentalists are being allowed to set the agenda," Mr. Rushdie wrote in Tuesday's edition of the Guardian newspaper. "What is happening in the Muslim world today must be seen as a witch-hunt of exceptional proportions, a witch-hunt being carried out in many nations, and often with murderous results. "So the next time you stumble across a story...remember that the persecution it describes is not an isolated act — that it is part of a deliberate, lethal programme whose purpose is to criminalise, denigrate and even to assassinate the Muslim World's best, most honourable voices: Its voices of dissent. And remember that those dissident need your support. More than anything, they need your attention."

Egypt apologises to Zimbabweans

HARARE (AFP) — Egyptian Ambassador to Zimbabwe Ibrahim Badawi Monday apologised to Zimbabweans for insulting remarks in Egyptian newspapers which had sparked a war of words between the two countries. In a number of recent articles Egyptian newspapers have reportedly referred to Zimbabweans as "black slaves" who are "not capable of thinking" and whose athletes eat monkeys. Following an official protest by Zimbabwean Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira, Mr. Badawi said in a statement Monday that the newspapers were independent and did not reflect "the sentiments" of the Egyptian people and their government. "We see ourselves as Africans," he said. "We say, and proudly, we are Africans. Our position on this matter is that we regret that this happened."

Kurdish rebels set terms for tourists' release

LONDON (R) — Kurdish separatists holding a Briton and his Australian cousin in eastern Turkey Tuesday said Turkish forces must stop operations in the area in order for them to be released. Engineer David Rowbottom, 28, and his cousin Tania Miller, also 28, disappeared about a week ago and Turkish troops have been searching for them. A statement, faxed to Reuters by the Kurdistan Information Centre, said the separatists wanted the Turkish military to stop aerial and ground operations in the area while journalists and international organisations ensured the tourists' safe passage.

Nights are long and fearful in Baghdad

By Dilip Ganguly

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — At bedtime in Baghdad, eight-year-old Sahar wants fairy tales. She clutches her most prized possession, a watercolour paintbox, and awaits her grandmother, sisters and cousins to pray.

Nadia, the 82-year-old grandmother, sits with eight of her grandchildren and waits for dawn. The Holy Koran is on a raised platform, next to the bed.

After night falls on Baghdad, many families huddle together in their most protected room and try to sleep, unsure if the standoff between Iraq and the United Nations will mean another air raid.

Iraqis have learned of the present standoff through Western radio broadcasts, because government jamming of medium-wave frequencies has ceased without explanation.

"Before I liked fairy tale stories at bedtime, now all of us want to pray and be silent," said Sahar.

Sahar is the youngest of Hakki Ismail's 15-member family.

"I like painting," said Sahar, a third grade student. "I can paint all birds; I like painting clouds, the sky." Sahar was five when U.S.-led allied forces bombed Baghdad to force occupying Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Iraq is negotiating with the United Nations to arrange a one-time sale of oil that would enable Baghdad to buy food and humanitarian supplies. Despite the growing tensions, the meetings continued Monday.

The government has doubled civil servants' salaries in the past two years, but the increase does not amount to much in the face of 6,000 per cent inflation.

"Last night I baked tomatoes, put on some mint leaves, and all of us ate that with bread," said Karima, 45, mother of Hakki.

"We have lost many things," said grandma Nadia, who recalls with pride the good days before Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

"But I am sure Allah is with us," she said, pointing at the Holy Koran, kept on an orn

Home News



Majali briefs Cabinet on talks with Ross, PLO

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of talks held with the U.S. Mideast peace coordinator Dennis Ross Monday and efforts to give momentum to the peace process.

Dr. Majali also briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of a Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee meeting, which was held in Amman Monday, and expressed his "complete satisfaction" over the agreement reached in these negotiations.

Dr. Majali outlined the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee and its initial plans as well as the formation of the six subcommittees to discuss various aspects of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

Upon recommendations from Minister of Finance Sami Gammie, the Council of Ministers decided to extend for one more month the deadline given to returnees from Kuwait to present documents proving ownership of their vehicles which entered Jordan by September 1992.

The Cabinet approved a former government decision taken in February 1992 imposing a two per cent extra charge on all vehicles whose owners have failed to clear by the end of September 1992.

In this connection, the Cabinet said that the concerned author-



Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali
would not allow cars of the 1992 model to be cleared.

The Cabinet decided to allow returnees who had brought their vehicles into the free zones to be cleared through the central Amman customs office. This office can make arrangements for owners of vehicles to pay their dues by instalments.

Also discussed at Tuesday's regular Cabinet meeting were a number of precautionary measures taken in Jordan to provide protection to livestock wealth.

The council decided to delegate Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat to represent Jordan at the opening of the pan-Arab Youth Festival due to open in Beirut on August 10, 1993.

Vocational training essential to ease joblessness — Fariz

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is giving increasing attention to raising the efficiency and skill of the country's workforce in a bid to ease Jordan's unemployment problem, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz said Tuesday.

"The local labour market is increasingly seeking skilled workers in a country whose industry is growing, with more opportunities for young Jordanians to find jobs," said the minister at the opening of a workshop on vocational and technical training in Jordan.

Today's industry deputised on modern technology and the use of computers, something which must motivate local industries to modernise all the time and employ highly skilled people, said the minister.

Dr. Fariz, who deputised at the meeting for his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, expressed appreciation for the Vocational Training Corporation's efforts to provide training for young Jordanians.

The two-day workshop, organised at the Teachers' Club in Amman, was addressed by the head of the National Centre for Educational Research and De-

velopment Victor Billeh, who said that the meeting was "one more link in a long chain of seminars and workshops called for by Prince Hassan to discuss problems facing education and vocational training sectors in Jordan."

The aim of the meeting is to help decision-makers make better planning for the development of human resources, taking into consideration the various developments in industry, said Dr. Billeh.

But Dr. Billeh said the training of men and women faces a number of difficulties, among which the unwillingness of students to take up vocational training and the lack of a national data base that can provide information about the real needs of the labour market.

The workshop, organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Minister of Higher Education and the Vocational Training Corporation, is attended by 50 educationists and specialists in vocational training. They will be reviewing a number of working papers related to vocational training and solving its different problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent visits families of victims of accident in Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited Al Sharaa family in Eera, Al Muhabat family in Jandawieh, Al Fayez family in Umm Al Amd and Al Majali family in Karak to condole them over the death of members of their families in last Friday's bus accident in Yemen and to convey to them the condolences of His Majesty King Hussein. Prince Hassan also visited those who were injured in the accident and conveyed to them King Hussein's wishes of speedy recovery. Nine Jordanians were killed, including a senior diplomat, and another nine were injured in the bus crash between Sanaa and Hejrah in Yemen.

Mayo Clinic team meets U.J. president

AMMAN (Petra) — A medical team from the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, Tuesday visited the University of Jordan (UJ) and met with its President Fawzi Gharabeh. Dr. Gharabeh briefed the delegation, which is led by Dr. L. W. Smith, on the establishment and development of the university, in addition to its educational philosophy and programmes. The delegation commended the advanced educational level at the university's Faculty of Medicine after being briefed by its Dean Alaa Touqan on its educational programmes and curricula. Dr. Touqan voiced hope that the delegation's visit would be at good chance to start exchanging expertise and experiments in academic and scientific fields between the Faculty of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic.

Oweidat opens Houran Festival

RAMTHA (Petra) — Deputising for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Youth Minister Abdullah Oweidat Monday inaugurated at Al Hassan Industrial Estate's theatre near Ramtha the Houran Plains Festival for Culture and Folklore which is organised by Al Ramtha Cultural Forum. The festival included folkloric shows, dances and songs performed by troupes representing Yarmouk University, the city of Ramtha and the Syrian city of Der'a.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rassas at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Esthebella Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

Exhibition of art works by Zeinab Zaqut at Baladna Art Gallery.



KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines, held a reception for the travel industry to celebrate the reintroduction of KLM's own operation to Amman on July 7, 1993 at the Regency Palace Hotel.

Human rights group urges Kuwait to revoke death sentences, questions fairness of trials

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) Tuesday called on Kuwait to revoke death sentences passed on Jordanians and Palestinians convicted of collaborating with Iraq, and to permit family members to visit detainees in the emirate.

The organisation said none of the trials held by the military court or the state security court in Kuwait after its liberation from a seven-month Iraqi occupation in February 1991 was fair since the defendants were denied their basic rights.

The group also demanded that Kuwait pay compensation and severance pay to the families of those detained/convicted in the emirate since their families had left without being able to collect anything.

The call, issued at a press conference held by Asma Khader, a prominent lawyer and senior official of the Jordan Chapter of the Cairo-based AOHR, was the latest appeal made to Kuwait amid signs that the emir intended to carry out death sentences handed down in June to 10 Jordanians and Palestinian origin.

"Defendants were not granted their right to a fair trial and their so-called confessions heard in the state security court were extracted under torture," Ms. Khader claimed during the press conference, which was attended by family members of several Jordanians on death row in

Kuwait.

"What does collaboration mean?" she asked. "Can talking to an Iraqi during the occupation be called collaboration?"

The AOHR's call on Kuwait had "no political shade," said Ms. Khader. "Our stand is based on our quest to ensure that human rights are respected and everyone, regardless of origin or nationality, is granted his or her right to a fair trial and proper legal counsel."

In addition to not allowing legal access to the detainees and interrogation under torture, the court did not take into consideration "the mitigating circumstances" accused of collaborating with Iraq, she said.

"They did not have a choice but to obey the Iraqi army during the occupation. If they had not, then their lives were in danger," Ms. Khader said.

"They were not Kuwaiti citizens and therefore not bound by the code of conduct and resistance to occupation that Kuwait could expect from Kuwaitis," she pointed out.

Immediately after the liberation of the emirate by an American-led military coalition in February 1991, vengeful Kuwaitis went on a rampage against non-Kuwaitis who remained in the country during the Iraqi occupation.

Hundreds were killed and many others detained and tortured by the Kuwaitis who accused them of collaborating with

the Iraqis. Particularly targeted were Jordanians and Palestinians because of what the Kuwaitis saw as their support for Iraq.

Many were put on trial at a martial law court in the first few months after liberation. Twenty-nine Jordanians and Palestinians as well as Iraqis were sentenced to death in June 1991, but the ruling Kuwaiti family, coming under intense international pressure, commuted the sentences to life-terms.

Another 10 Jordanians, accused of belonging to the Baghdad-based Arab Liberation Front (ALF), were sentenced to death on June 12, 1993.

The execution in May of an Iraqi convicted of killing a Kuwaiti border guard during a smuggling attempt and subsequent comments by senior Kuwaiti officials have raised concern that the emir's authorities intended to carry out the death sentence.

"We call upon the Kuwaiti parliament, particularly its human rights committee, to uphold the inviolability of human rights and revoke all death sentences and order new trial for all those accused of collaborating with Iraq," Ms. Khader said.

"We also urge Kuwait to permit the families of the detained and convicted to visit the emirate and see their loved ones," she said.

As Ms. Khader spoke, several of the black-clad wives and mothers of those detained in Kuwait sitting around the table

hugged their children and wiped their tears away.

Most of them said they were born in Kuwait and lived there for decades until the Gulf crisis and the subsequent witchhunt that the Kuwaitis mounted against nationals of countries which they saw as having supported Iraq.

The backgrounds of those languishing in Kuwaiti prisons varied; some of them worked in the private sector, some were teachers and others were journalists. At least one of them was a student who happened to be visiting Kuwait when the Iraqis invaded.

In all cases, the families came home with virtually nothing to show for the years of toll in Kuwait.

"None of them got any compensation or severance pay from the employer despite decades of service" said Ms. Khader. "With the head of the family and the actual employee in prison, there was very little anyone could do to help them."

"It is the duty of the Kuwaiti government to ensure that the families get their rights," she said.

Maha, wife of Imadeddin Mohammad Nimer, who is under death sentence, said the family, which lived in Kuwait for decades, left the emirate in October 1991 without Mr. Nimer, who was detained five months earlier and sentenced to death in June. She said the family had no

Hussein Helou and his cousin Muayyed Helou, both 22 now, belonged to a family which lived in Kuwait since 1960, and knew no other country than the emirate.

"It is senseless to accuse them of any crime," said Hussein's father Rashid, who worked for the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance.

Ms. Khader said the cases of several teenagers tried as laborers in Kuwait in were "another gross violation of the international norms and practices while trying minors."

"They were not treated as minors although they were below 18 when they were arrested," she said.

Also attending Tuesday's press conference was Nida, wife of Abdul Rahman Hussein, who worked for the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai Al Aam until the Iraqi invasion and "was forced" to serve with the Iraqi paper Al Nida during the occupation.

Mr. Hussein, 40, is among the 29 whose death sentences were commuted in 1991.

"My husband was tortured and severely beaten even after the court sentenced him to death in June 1991," claimed Mrs. Hussein, citing an example what she called the vengeful mood of the Kuwaitis in the post-liberation period.

Ms. Khader summed-up: "Unless we apply pressure and keep up our campaign, there is little the Kuwait would do on its own to ensure justice is done."

Amman mayor resigns



Mohammad Al Bashir

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday announced its acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Mohammad Al Bashir, mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality. Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. Bashir has resigned in order to run for the Parliament in the coming elections.

The Council of Ministers also announced its acceptance of the resignation of Adnan Abdul Halim Abbas, who had served as Minister of Health secretary general.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Dr. Abbas, who had been seconded from the University of Jordan to work for the ministry, is going back to teaching at the uni-

Newly discovered Roman site hard to restore

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Roman archaeological site dating back to the first century AD which was recently discovered near the Central Bank in downtown Amman can only be partially uncovered and salvaged; because large parts of it are buried under modern buildings, officials say.

Director General of the Department of Antiquities Safwan Tell said it was impossible to salvage the whole site, which once contained long colonnaded pathways.

"Billions of dollars worth of buildings cover the finding, so I decided to shift what remains of these pavements and stones to the Al Qalaa (citadel) museum, in order to have a presentation of this once 15 metre wide pavement," Dr. Tell said.

Another colonnaded pathway somewhat perpendicular to the newly found one lies buried under the asphalt road leading to Raghadan bridge, he said.

"The owners used to slaughter and sell the poultry at the shops, causing pollution and posing danger to public health," said Dr. Malhas.

However, he added, the government is now examining the prospect of allowing the opening of more slaughterhouses in the country to cope with the number of birds being produced.

The present facilities can slaughter one million birds annually, but the present average production now stands at seven million birds, Dr. Malhas said.

He said, funds for the restoration project will be provided by the Department of Antiquities and a grant from the German government.



Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania Monday open the 13th Arab Children's Congress (Petra photo)

Arab children visit historical sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab children participating in the 13th Arab Children's Congress Tuesday visited the Martyrs Monument built in memory of Jordanian soldiers who fell martyrs in the Karamah Battle with Israeli forces.

The Arab children were briefed on that battle in which heavy losses were inflicted on invading Israeli forces in that area of the Jordan Valley.

The children also visited the Dead Sea in addition to graves of prominent Islamic leaders. They

called at Rabadi Castle in Ajloun and at the Al Hussein Youth Camp, where young Jordanians undertake recreational and sports activities.

The Arab children will visit Yarmouk University Wednesday and look into the achievements of that educational institution. They will also visit the university's museums of anthropology, archaeology and natural history.

The visiting Arab children will also attend the inauguration and



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Opinion & Analysis

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Vision not beyond realisation

THERE IS no need nor sense in a conflict between Islam and the West. Not even if historically one existed. Fortunately more and more thinkers and politicians in both the Muslim World and the West believe so. Many Muslim thinkers, some assembled in Amman today, advocate fusion between the two civilisations instead of the tension that currently prevails. For this to happen, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan advised yesterday, both should recognise the uniqueness of the other. Both should accept the other. Neither should the Islamic civilisation replace or triumph over the Western civilisation nor the other way around. Muslims and Westerners should accept that the other is not only different but that, essentially, all human beings are equal and have equal, legitimate needs.

Thinkers on both sides of the divide who see the ingredients of large-scale confrontation between the two brewing should spare no effort aimed at defusing the conflict. Whether in Palestine, Bosnia or the North-South divide, grievances must be addressed and peaceful means for resolving them found. The forces of radicalism and fanaticism are growing by the day propelled by injustice, poverty, terror and prejudice. The days of the crusaders, and martyrs should not be allowed to return. The West, the all so-powerful and so-advanced, has all the means to address the injustice felt by Muslims in Palestine, Bosnia and elsewhere in the Muslim World. It has the resources, the political and military power, the ideas and ideals and the technology to make the world a better place for everybody to live in. The Muslims have the zeal for a fresh awakening that would once more ensure them a place among the nations. The intellectual wealth of both civilisations and their fast human, scientific and material resources should, when a fusion takes place, clear the road for a better world for all human beings, free of war and misery, of poverty and ignorance, of intolerance and bigotry.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE CURRENT tour of the Middle East by peace coordinator Dennis Ross could result in the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, but it is important for the Arabs to demand that such resumption mean no acceptance of continued talks that aim at nothing, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Holding talks for the sake of talks and negotiations without achieving progress towards a settlement can be dangerous because it fosters despair and resentment, said the paper. The Arab masses, who feel they are defeated and in disarray, are bound to face and show more despair over the lack of progress, especially as Israel continues to defy U.N. resolutions at a time when the world community is doing nothing to stem its aggression and end its occupation of Arab Land, warned the paper. If unjust peace is imposed on the Arabs, through the U.S.-Israeli alliance and through pressure and coercion, hostilities are bound to flare up at any moment in the future, continued the paper. It cited His Majesty King Hussein's repeated words that the Arabs seek peace that can be accepted by the future generations as a clear and loud warning to the two sides not to reach an unjust peace which can only breed hatred and foment hostilities. The paper said that so far the Americans and the Israelis are seeking some kind of peaceful formula to be imposed on the Arabs without achieving a durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It said that the future generations are bound to rise above the present divisions now plaguing their Arab Nation and could muster sufficient might to regain lost territory and usurped rights.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday backed the idea of assigning seats for women in the coming Parliament and attacked those opposing the idea. Fahd Al Fanek said that there should be a quota for women, that this is just and fair and an embodiment of equality in the atmosphere of democracy. Those opposing the idea, said the writer, claim that a quota for women in Parliament would constitute a violation of the Jordanian Constitution, but this document has clearly stated that there should be no discrimination between men and women. It is incumbent on the government to intercede on behalf of the weak and humble and serve justice to all parties, he demanded. The Jordanian Constitution, continued the writer, had earlier created a quota for the Christians and the Circassians because they are a minority and in order to ensure for them the minimum level of representation. This formula has been accepted by the public for decades, added the writer. He said that women could at first be given a quota of five or 10 seats, but women could win more votes, depending on the strength of their political activities, suggested the writer. He said that by introducing the quota system for women, the government would be contributing to the establishment of justice in various sectors of society.

Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Excess liquidity could generate investment, capital formation

I really never understood the wisdom behind whatever measures taken to affect directly the level of activity in Amman Financial Market (AFM), whether these measures tried to boost prices or suppress them. Our stock exchange is a free market where supply and demand forces interplay and determine, in the process, the points of equilibrium which represent fair prices. Certainly, it is the duty of the authorities to eliminate any monopolistic conditions or foul play which impede the free and fair interaction among market forces. But it is not within the domain of a prudent economic policy of an economy based on free markets to go as far as trying to prop up demand or supply in a direct way, such as asking this or that body to buy or sell shares or to build certain equity portfolios.

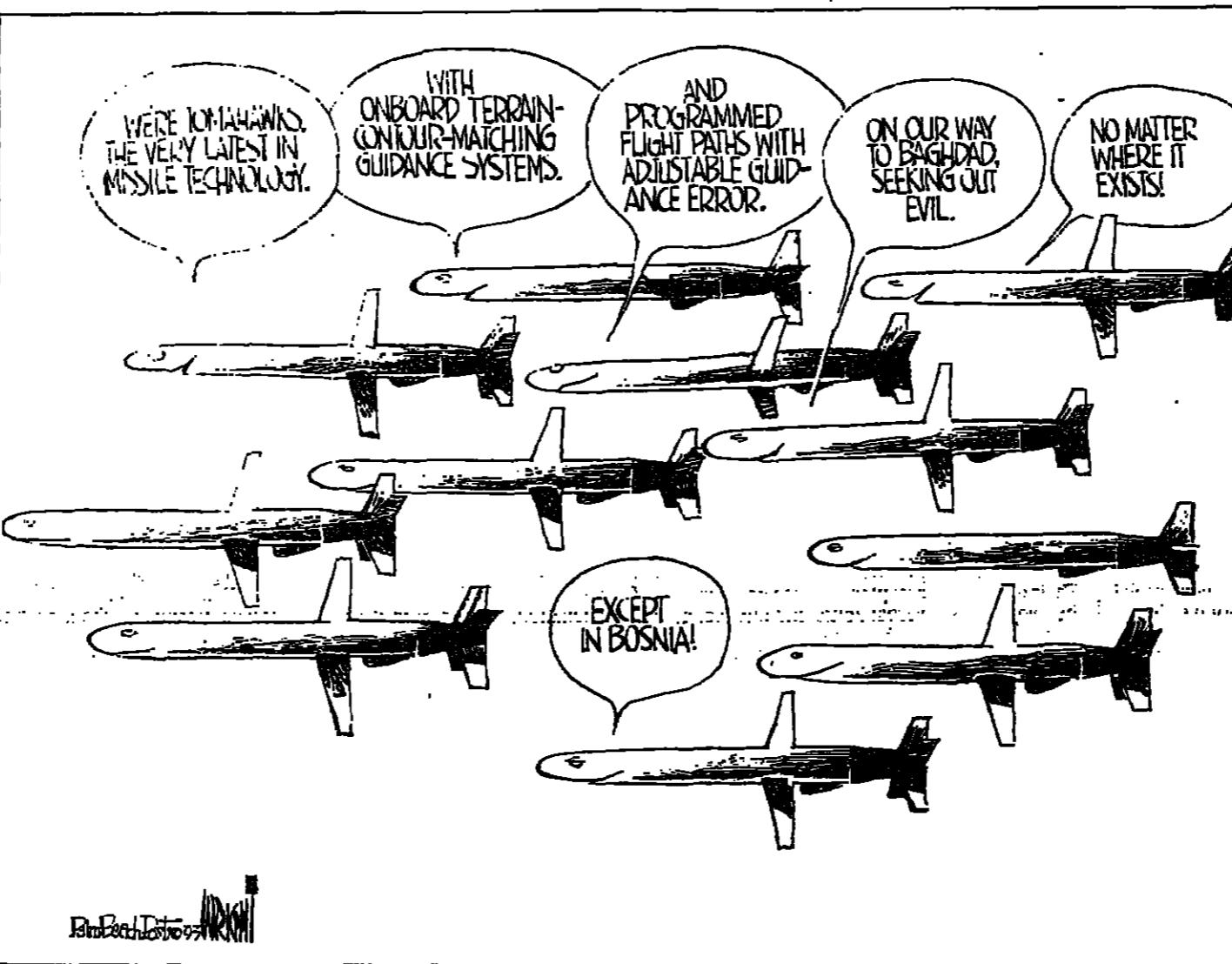
Practitioners and students of economics, alike, know very well that stock prices reflects the level of economic activity. Now any shift in the sentiments of dealers and therefore any consequential gyrations in stock prices are a function of the policy measures taken in the financial, monetary and commercial fields. The sound means to affect the overall level of stock prices is therefore to take the right policy measures.

If the prices of shares and equities go wild, it may be necessary to review and adjust ongoing policies. But if these policies are found to be sound, then the movements of stock prices, in any directions, should not stir the worries of the managers of the national economy. These movements should be left to work themselves out. Otherwise, these managers will be hostages to temperamental markets. But it will certainly be their duty to warn dealers, especially real investors, against buying shares in the turbulent periods. The official advice to dealers in this case is both warranted and valuable and is likely to be heeded by them.

It is well-known that Amman Financial Market (AMF) is particularly shallow and is therefore easily moved by developments and rumours, but particularly by expectations. Contrary to mature or deep markets, it is very hardly affected by, for example, interest rates (on deposits or bonds). Thus what follows is that any price movements triggered by these developments, rumours or expectations are not translated into enduring trends that enable savers and real investors to map out financial plans. Under the circumstances, no economic policy can catch up with the mood of AFM beyond the adoption of ad hoc measures and decisions.

In the present stage, it is our contention that AFM is enjoying, or suffering from, excess liquidity in the economy. Around JD 400 million of this liquidity are chasing few investment opportunities. Occasionally, part of this liquidity pours into AFM and forces prices up. During the last 18 months, a certain part of the excess liquidity was engaged in the property market. Now that slowdown has crept into that market, more liquidity is changing course into AFM and is exercising upward pressure there. If the slowdown in property market changes into recession, as we suspect, such pressure is bound to be renewed every now and then. My impression is that share prices during the next twelve months will fluctuate, up and down, but will stay in the upper brackets.

Excess liquidity travels through the economy and, short of capital flight, can be drained only through economic investments which entail fresh capital formation. Credit ceilings observed under the economic adjustment programme have not helped in ameliorating the excess liquidity "problem", so to speak. The turbulence in AFM will most probably continue during the next twelve months.



'We call for the resumption of all serious and meaningful dialogue that seeks to preserve the rights of men everywhere'

Crown Prince: Islamic thought is duty-bound to guarantee the prosperity of future generations

Following is His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address yesterday to the ninth general conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bait Foundation)

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the universe, and may His blessing and peace be upon our lord Mohammad, the seal of all the Prophets and Messengers, and his venerable and blessed kindred.

Members of the Academy, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend to you my warmest greetings and a cordial welcome from the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bait Foundation) to this diverse gathering of Muslim scholars from all over the world.

We have always valued pluralism in personal values and judgments, as we have in political, scientific, and sectarian attitudes. Indeed, we have always believed that pluralism provides a platform for the diversity that alone can develop and enrich human life; and an element of natural freedom which allows Muslims to work together, understanding the true substance of our religion and the interests of our Ummah. Pluralism becomes a medium for affinity, cohesion, and progress when guided by reason, implemented through dialogue, and promoted to seek the truth. Conversely, pluralism can become a channel for discord, mutual hatred, and estrangement when driven by ignorance and fanaticism, and directed towards achieving narrow advantages and ambitions of a particular people or groups.

We must not limit our deliberations and research to Muslims and their situation alone, however important that might be, if our contribution is to be successful at the international level. We need to highlight the attitudes of Islam to humanity as a whole, and to the future of civilisation. This is the issue that will occupy you in

this meeting, and some of our peerless scholars, members of our academy, have presented learned studies and dissertations on this issue.

We have frequently discussed our venerable Islamic Shari'a (law) calling it "tolerant". While I would maintain that it is indeed so, we have to pause to consider its import. Islamic tolerance manifests itself within the international perspective of Islam. This is the perspective that encompasses the plurality of religions, races, and languages, ensuring their respective rights and freedoms, with particular reverence for the dignity of the human being. Dealings within Islamic society are carried out on the basis of justice and the maintenance of rights. Dealings outside Islamic society, on the other hand, are effected through covenants and pacts that regulate relations with other peoples.

Such dealings have not only become clear examples of the humanity and universality of Islam, but have also become the subject of lengthy studies on Islam's position towards international agreements and what has become to be known as international law.

Such is the tolerance of Islam in its true perspective. In this manner did Islam embrace Man, as a human being, with all his pluralities; and the Holy Koran and the noble Prophetic tradition (Hadith) clearly grant all the rights of man and his fundamental and general freedoms. Any misapplications that have occurred during particular times and circumstances do not, to my

mind, subtract from this achievement.

At the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna last June, I emphasised the fact that any new world order must of necessity be a humanitarian order, both in its aims and its concepts. The human problems that leave their impact on the lives of millions of human beings

"We have always believed that pluralism provides a platform for the diversity that alone can develop and enrich human life; and an element of natural freedom which allows Muslims to work together, understanding the true substance of our religion and the interests of our Ummah. Pluralism becomes a medium for affinity, cohesion, and progress when guided by reason, implemented through dialogue, and promoted to seek the truth."

are a product of human excesses that violate human rights and a challenge to those who would adhere and maintain them. We

need a new vision founded on modesty, simplicity and self criticism. A vision for a better world, one grounded in mutual respect, tolerance, compassion and solidarity. We need to effect a new constitution for human behaviour, regulating relationships among individuals, as well as between individuals and governments. And we need to appeal to governments and rulers to place respect for human rights and human principles at the very core of their policies and practices.

In my address to the Vienna

conference I indicated my belief

that once such a body of moral

values is promoted, the responsi-

bility for respecting human rights

and dignity would not be shoul-

dered by governments alone but

also by individuals, whether in

their professional, ideological, or

political positions, or simply

acting in their capacity as ordi-

nary people. Given such a basis in

rights, the international commu-

nity could truly act to the benefit of

all; the rights of minorities would

be respected; and international

relations would be founded on

the bases of justice, equality and

peace. Muslims would not then

become the victims of double

standards; nor would we be ex-

posed to unjust accusations on

grounds of religious fanaticism,

or because of our supposed desire

to possess weapons of mass destruc-

tion. To be sure, neither of

these is restricted to a particular

people or religion.

Moreover, we have both cour-

age and confidence to ask every

thinker and decision-maker in

the world to support this

new vision.

It is from Amman, the abode

of Arabism and Islam, where we

stand now, that we declare, loudly

and clearly, that whoever

attempts willfully and purpose-

ly to accuse Islam and Musli-

ms of being unfair, just and hon-

est. To be sure, the rights of

Muslims, be that in Jerusalem,

Bosnia, or in Muslim communi-

ties outside the abode of Islam,

are held dearly in trust.

Moreover, we have both cour-

age and confidence to realise

such rights stems from equity,

justice, and honesty, with all the

Peace is not real if it is not based on justice and right

By Rev. Ibrahim Ayad

The writer is president of the Palestine Committee for NGOs. He delivered the following speech at the tenth United Nations North American NGO symposium on the question of Palestine held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York between June 30 - July 2, 1993.

After the end of the cold war as a consequence of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Communist regimes in the Eastern European countries and in other parts of the globe, brought about by different factors and motives, the authors of these changes have been trying to establish a new world order under the pretense of bringing peace, prosperity, and stability to humanity. What in fact this new order brought with it were more troubles, more wars, more deaths and more chaos.

The events occurring now in Africa, in Latin America, in Bosnia, in the countries of the previous Soviet Union and especially in Palestine are a clear indication of the failure of this new world order as the superpowers meant to solve the international problems are approaching them for egoistic and interested reasons and not on a solid basis built on justice and right, and according to the established international law and legal principles recognised by human civilised society. They pretend to defend human rights while in fact they crush in many countries these rights. Here applies the famous dictum of Madame De Staél, one of the French Revolution leaders, against who her comrades in the revolution conspired, accusing her of treason and condemning her to be decapitated by guillotine who, on her way to the execution place, passing in front of the Liberty statue, shouted: "Oh liberty, oh liberty, how many crimes are committed in your name?"

Now, in the name of the so-called new world order, crimes are perpetrated in different parts of the world under the pretext of defending human rights. This is done in a selective way; at times, we witness immediate and extremely harsh military intervention, at others, similar, crimes committed against an innocent population, in flagrant violation of the Human Rights Charter and all the international rules and conventions, are condoned by the United Nations under instructions from the United States, the absolute master of this institution, as in the case of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, who are massacred with the blessing of the United States and the cowardly silence of other states. Even the churches are keeping silent, as well as human rights organisations which rarely issue timid declarations trying to stop this systematic genocide; but Israel is intensify-

ing this offensive of killing, destroying, rendering life impossible, cutting all means of survival, especially in the Gaza Strip, killing without provocation or justification.

It is the case of Samira, 8 years old, from the camp of Rafah, who went to buy bread for her hungry brothers and was shot dead by an Israeli soldier. No voice was raised against this disgusting crime. Out of 100 Palestinian children killed in one month, 35 were under the age of 12.

Recently, Christians and Muslims were told they must have a Zionists permit to pray in the Holy Sepulchre and in Al Aksa Mosque. Thus the holy places are at Israel's mercy. The Israeli authorities partitioned the occupied territories in different zones in order to avoid Jerusalem, the heart of the area; if you have to go from Bethlehem to Ramallah within a 20-minutes distance, you have to spend more than two hours going through Jericho and Taybeh — it is evident that this prejudices the final solution to the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

The Security Council ordered unanimously the return of the 415 Palestinians deported by Israel eight months ago; but Israel is adamant in its refusal to abide by this decision and the United States not only did nothing to compel Israel to abide by the United Nations resolution, it encouraged Israel to find means to escape the implementation of the resolution.

The negotiations, which have been going on for nearly two years, produced no tangible result owing to the fact that the United States is acting not as an impartial mediator but as a full partner of Israel.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters of the non-governmental organisation,

Islam guarantees prosperity for coming generations

(Continued from page 4)

this world to join hands with us with view to scrutinising all the problems in an endeavour to discover their causes and prescribe the due remedies. Silence and indifference render us more adamant on pursuing our cultural enterprise.

We call for the resumption of all serious and meaningful dialogue that seeks to preserve the rights of man everywhere. We start this endeavour with the Muslim on account of the responsibility borne by him towards his own world and the preservation of it. Indeed, we seek a departure from "east is east and west is west and ne'er the twain shall meet..." Everyone in position of responsibility and every guardian, patron, and custodian are hereby requested to bring the twin together. The economic situation in the Muslim World is defective in terms of the distribution of wealth: wide population sectors live in utter poverty, while in certain countries there are vast fortunes owned by governments and private individuals. These fortunes are not invested in a manner profitable to the Islamic communities, but are rather deposited in foreign banks without accruting the benefits ordained by the Almighty in favour of the poor and needy.

While we are on the subject of human rights in general, I would like to urge that particular attention be paid to economic and social rights. These rights guarantee the provision of decent living standards and facilitate the establishment of an integrated and compassionate community. I persistently sense the need for this when confronted with the perversion of hunger, sickness, and ignorance in considerable areas of our Muslim World.

Allow me to be frank with you in saying that we are not giving this issue due attention compared with other Islamic topics. We should, perhaps, consider the importance of Zakat (alms giving) and its role in realising solidarity and mutual compassion in our Islamic communities. Such considerations have prompted me to contact a number of responsible people in the Islamic World with a view to founding an international organisation for Zakat and solidarity. It is intended to become a development, patronage, and relief establishment, undertaking the administration of Zakat in the Islamic World. Most importantly, it will remain distant from ties with political regimes of any narrow, limited ambitions.

Islamic dealings with the human being — regardless of faith, race and language — and the beginning of the next.

Without such comprehensive understanding we will be unable to cope with the political, economic, social and ideological changes that can be expected at the end of this century and the beginning of the next.

We hope this conference will motivate Islamic thought to look to the future of generations to come. The guarantee of their prosperity and happiness is a duty which we dearly hold in trust.

In the name of Allah I declare your conference open. May He bless both its commencement and conclusion, for only He can grant success and good fortune.

Computer lets drug researchers walk into a molecule

By Ben Hirschler
Reuters

LONDON — Scientists are donning "virtual reality" helmets in the latest twist in a worldwide drive to harness powerful modern computers for drug design.

Until now the computer-generated world known as virtual reality (VR) has been a playground for those bored with conventional computer games.

Scientists from Britain's York University and the drug firm Glaxo believe it may also be a valuable way of understanding the structure of molecules involved in disease and discovering drugs to block their action.

Working with the division group, a Bristol-based VR specialist launched on the stock exchange last month, the team has completed a test study. The plan is to put the technique to work in a three-year project starting in August.

"Our pilot study has shown VR can offer advantages," said Dr. Rod Hubbard, reader in chemistry at York University.

"Now we're looking at a fairly major project to develop the software, the techniques and the hardware."

Wearing a headset containing two tiny television screens, giving a three-dimensional effect, researchers have the illusion that they are actually walking around inside a molecule.

As they move, the computer redraws the image, giving a startling sense of solidity. With a special glove they can even reach

out and grab parts of the molecule, twisting and flexing the structure to investigate its make-up.

Dr. Hubbard — who was inspired by pioneering work on VR at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — sees it as a natural successor to the powerful work stations with three-dimensional graphics now used in the drug industry.

"With VR you are actually immersed in the molecule... and if you want to design another small molecule to stop it working that enhanced perception has to help," he said.

Division Marketing Director Pierre Dupont said other drug companies were also in exploratory talks on using VR, reflecting an industry-wide shift in approach to drug discovery.

Most existing drugs were found by "molecular roulette" — the random screening of many thousands of natural and synthetic compounds, a hugely expensive and inefficient process.

Advances in molecular biology and a quantum leap in computing power now offer a potential short-cut.

Today, scientists fighting viral diseases, including AIDS, are trying to home in on a virus's most vulnerable features and design drugs to disrupt it.

Several "rational" anti-AIDS drugs are already in trials and on June 3 researchers said they had made a first step towards a cure for influenza using a computer.

A group from Monash University in Victoria, Australia, and Glaxo created a computer model

of two compounds to block an enzyme used by the flu virus to reproduce. Animal tests showed that they worked, although they have yet to be tested on humans.

The results of this flu research would "excite and encourage those involved in rational drug design," according to Dr. Garry Taylor, a biochemist at the University of Bath.

Dr. Lynda Boyle of Proteus International, a specialist U.K. company, reports fast growing interest in computer drug design and believes the area is set to take off.

"You will see a very significant increase in rational drug design over the next decade. The drug companies can no longer afford to be left behind," she said.

Dr. Peter Murray-Rust of Glaxo's Protein Structure Group is cautious about any short-term pay-off from VR.

He said it was a useful — and natural — way for researchers to learn what complex molecules looked like but believed the technique would remain com-

plementary to existing drug discovery.

"It helps us understand the molecules that we have to interact with on a chemical and biological level. We can construct hypotheses in the computer and see if they are worth taking forward to the laboratory," he said.

He points out that while VR offers excellent scope for human interaction, visualisation is still relatively poor. "We're pushing the limits of the present technology," he added.

Steve Arlington, pharmaceutical specialist with management consultant Coopers Lybrand, believes the main role for computers in drug design will be to help keep down the cost of developing a new drug, calculated at an average of \$270 million.

"It allows drug companies to get more information before they synthesise a compound," he said. "And a lot of highly-skilled man hours can be avoided if you make rational decisions based on information the computer gives you."

Jordan's trade deficit widens

(Continued from page 1)

Imports exceeded the IMF target by JD 636.6 million (\$925 million). Exports plus re-exports were close to the ceiling of JD 832.8 million (\$1.21 billion).

The Central Bank said the increase in imports was mainly from capital goods and raw materials — a total of JD 1.29 billion (\$1.88 billion) — reflecting the widening of Jordan's production base due to increased industrial

investment.

Capital goods worth JD 510 million (\$741 million) — an increase of 75 per cent — and raw materials worth JD 789 million (\$1.15 billion) were imported in 1992.

Jordan imported JD 900.5 million (\$1.31 billion) of consumer goods, mostly durables, in a burst of spending to compensate for unsatisfied demand after a period of austerity following the 1988 dinar devaluation crisis.

BY Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Sultana, a hospital interpreter in south London, takes me home to meet her family. The living room is self-consciously nostalgic in the way many immigrant homes are, with oriental carpets and cushions, bowls of pistachios, brass trays and even a hookah in the corner. Her son and husband are playing chess. Mona, her 12-year-old daughter, is watching neighbours. When the news comes on, the children are sent upstairs. There are the usual protests. Sultana explains, "Mona becomes hysterical when she sees Bosnia. She cries and says she hates whites. I am terrified. I don't want my children to get hatred in their hearts, like the Palestinians and Jews. Mona was born here but in school they call her Ayatollah because she wears a headscarf. Now she thinks they will kill her one day." Sultana feels such desperation about Bosnia that she went on a demonstration for the first time in her life. "I thought only communists did that kind of thing. But I had to do something."

Like Sultana, Muslims throughout the country are feeling terrible anguish over an area few had previously heard of. Dr. Abida Khan, a chemotherapy expert from Bradford, tearfully speaks about her "sisters" in Bosnia. "I remember, like it was yesterday, scientists flying to the Gulf after the war to rescue birds and make sanctuaries for them. I wish the West had an equal emphasis on the human race."

Bashir Maan, the first Asian to appear in Who's Who — polyglot, politician, magistrate, author, businessman and member of swanky golf clubs — is just as troubled. "I've lived in Scotland for 40 years — the most integrated Muslim you could find. I have never felt so concerned. This has completely eroded my confidence in Western society."

These are the voices of the Muslim middle classes, those who once felt relatively secure in the West. Today they feel an intense sense of betrayal and dislocation as they watch the Bosnian tragedy unfolding. Their deep demoralisation, all the worse because it comes from a shattered confidence, makes them see things in stark terms. The arms embargo, the peace plans, the international status, which they see as finely tuned collusion with aggression, all are intended to destroy Muslims, they believe, and if, occasionally, there are

other victims, this is a by-product of the genocidal enterprise.

To Mr. Mann this can mean only one thing: "I hate to say it, but my intuition tells me this extermination of the Muslims is because Europe cannot tolerate us on European soil. Those old dormant prejudices have raised their ugly heads."

Dr. Zaki Badawi, principal of the Muslim College in Ealing, west London, a respected academic and a voice of reconciliation during the Salman Rushdie crisis, also sees the resurrection of an ancient hatred. "The West is back to its old tricks and has no qualms about Muslims being massacred. It is party to the destruction because it is using the blockade to stop the Muslims defending themselves. But, you know, I am surprised. The West should have learnt from the Palestinians that by sacrificing one group, it ends up with a bigger disaster. There is now a tremendous feeling across Europe that Muslim lives are devalued, that to be a Muslim is dangerous, and an apprehension that we will be hounded out of Europe."

The scale and nature of the assault on the Bosnian Muslims, and the sense of kinship that British Muslims feel with the victims, justifies their response. As the world powers push through the latest settlement in Bosnia, history bears out many of their fears.

But the situation is bringing to the surface underlying issues. For years the majority of Muslims have felt misunderstood and demonised in the West, often by popular media images that portray them as terrorists or barbaric oil potentates with money oozing out of every pore and, as religious fanatics.

They came the eruptions over The Satanic Verses and the fatwa, which confirmed these stereotypes. Extremists certainly exploited the genuine hurt felt by Muslims to gain power, mainly among the deprived sections of the community. Yet even Muslims who disapproved of the book, but did not support the fatwa or take to the streets — people who previously felt accepted — became victims of verbal abuse and physical attack.

The assault on Islam by respectable figures from both the left and the right, and the rise of liberal fundamentalism that proclaimed superiority to all other ways of thinking life, helped legitimise these assaults. Everyone was expected to declare their allegiance. You were either for

Rushdie's book or you wanted him dead. The only good Muslim was an utterly westernised and preferably godless one.

For middle-class, bicultural Muslims caught between these imperatives and shocked by the malevolence of mainstream society, the Rushdie affair created a heightened sense of religious identity. Many were forced to take stock as Rashidah Butt, a science teacher, who runs a group in Bradford for educated and articulate Muslim women who now choose to wear the hijab, or beads.

"As a child I hated Muslims and Muslim countries. I thought they were backward, fanatic. When I started studying the intellectual tradition of Islam, what it did for women, I began to change and to challenge what was said about us."

The turning point for Rashidah was the Rushdie affair, and the Gulf war intensified her disaffection.

victims of a holocaust, people such as Sultana thought he was insane. Today, the mildest Muslims evoke the same spectre.

Their views now seem (uncomfortable for them) close to those of Dr. Kalm Siddiqui, a maverick extremist and founder of the recently established Muslim parliament. If they aren't exactly flocking to him, many more are turning in his direction, something he is happy to exploit.

"You see, Dr. Akhtar didn't have to wait long for the gas ovens. The West's actions are what they are because they don't want to allow Muslims to develop an identity on European soil. It is the old medieval Christian tradition, and their history shows that they are a killing machine," says Dr. Siddiqui.

Saba Rissaluddin, from the Campaign for Bosnia, a respected group supported by MPs that is fighting for a sovereign and democratic Bosnia, believes this

go of all that is good about us for that?"

There is also criticism of the in-fighting and oppression within the community and the cowardice, corruption and complaisance of the rich Muslim countries which have made Muslims vulnerable. Many influential Muslims are now arguing for unity, self-help and development away from mainstream society.

Various aid groups, newspapers and education projects that have sprung up recently show that this is already happening.

But will the developments that come from such disenchantment prove to be counter-productive? Separatism will certainly grieve

toise Muslims further and in turn help to justify their continuing maltreatment. Dr. Badawi believes that it also encourages simplistic analysis, and that it is dangerous to fall into that trap.

"We should think clearly what should be the best route. We must organise politically, but within mainstream politics, not isolate ourselves like the Muslim parliament. We should make ourselves understood, increase our influence gently, sensibly, have a sophisticated approach. And Europe must listen for its own sake. But these messages are so difficult today. How can people think rationally when there is such grief?" — The Independent.

Muslims in Europe Made to feel like trespassers

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Rashidah Butt: As a child I hated Muslims; when I studied Islam's intellectual tradition I began to change

"If they can destroy Bosnians, who are white, European and Muslim in name alone, who are completely integrated, what hope is there?"

tion. For many, it was an illustration of the selective morality by which the West plays its international games. Sultana says: "We were so shocked by how easy it was for them to kill the blameless Iraqi people and shout victory, but you know they put the tyrant in power. And what can we say about those heartless rich Arabs? How unsafe we Muslim people are in the world today."

Many felt confused about where their loyalty should lie and guilty that as western Muslims, they were implicated in this venture. Bosnia is seen as the culmination of their process of alienation. They regard it as the beginning of Europe's final solution for the enemy within. To many, moderation now seems an obscenity.

Three years ago, when the academic Dr. Shabbir Akhtar, former representative of the Bradford Council of Mosques, said Muslims would be the next

confluence and awareness has important implications for a multicultural Europe. "It has galvanised Muslims, and a number of us who previously may have had difficulties with each other are now at least talking. So Bosnia has become a Muslim issue because of the West's reluctance to intervene. You also know now that, however much you have forsaken your roots, being a Muslim, even in name, makes you a target."

So the very symbols of successful integration, such as the gentle Dr. Khan, now ask: "If they can destroy Bosnians, who are white, European and Muslim in name alone, who are completely integrated, what hope is there?"

Ms. Butt goes further. "We should be careful and not be like stupid, blind sheep. The entire fabric of this society is falling apart — and now we have seen their cruelty, why should we let

them do it?"

"We see this as a public service, but we know the Israelis are making it a political issue. They want us to clean the intifada graffiti off the walls. We have refused," 25-year-old Fayad said.

"They want to use this as a way to kill the intifada (uprising). We know what they are doing but we have no choice. This is our city and we are keeping it clean."

"At least it is better for us to clean Gaza than to clean Israel."

At Al Shouhada Street in Gaza's well-off Rimal district, five road-sweepers are taking a break under the shade of a tree.

Musa Ali Yakub, 36, was a metal-worker in Tel Aviv bringing home more than 70 shekels a day until the army closed the Strip. He has six children and two

weeks ago applied for one of the road-sweepers jobs advertised by the municipality.

"The 25 shekels a day is not enough but what else can I do," he said.

Amin Samur, 24, went to Moscow to study medicine, lost his scholarship in the Soviet collapse and returned home with a Russian wife and child. He too is sweeping the streets. "I can't find anything else," he said.

Fayez Abu Rahme, a Gaza lawyer who is close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said: "Israel is making propaganda out of cleaning up Gaza."

But he added that the PLO were not against the operation. "It's a job for the municipality and there are no political connections."

Kamal Wehaidy, general director of works and transport, is running the clean-up project for Gaza City Hall, under orders from the Israelis.

Jobless Palestinians give Gaza facelift

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — The piles of rotting rubbish and debris of five years of violent uprising in Gaza are being swept away by an army of jobless Palestinians who are cleaning up the occupied Strip.

Israel's military administration has taken on 13,500 street sweepers, painters and odd-job men in the last month to tackle the mammoth task.

Fith and stench are no longer synonymous with the strip as small groups of workers criss-cross the city streets pushing brooms and wheelbarrows loaded with shovels.

"We have no choice, this is the only work we can find," said Hamad Fayad, who was among the first day labourers taken on by Gaza City Hall in June.

He earns 25 shekels (\$8.9) for sweeping up from seven a.m. to two p.m., with a half-hour break.

When Israel sealed off Gaza at the end of March after Palestinians murdered 15 Jews, some 40,000 Gazans were thrown out of work as they were no longer

Japanese banks look for business in Gulf Arab countries and Eritrea

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japanese banks are shopping for fresh business in the Gulf and Eritrea to capitalise on a regional economic upswing and post-war reconstruction in that Red Sea state, Japanese diplomats said Monday.

A delegation from the Tokyo Centre for International Finance, which groups key Japanese banks, visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) last week and was to include other Gulf states and Eritrea on its tour, they said.

"The visits are part of the centre's regular tours around the world to assess economic and political conditions and explore investment opportunities," a Gulf-based diplomat told AFP, adding that the delegation's talks here had been fruitful.

He said the delegation, led by the centre's chief economist, Morito Ohara, held talks with UAE central bank officials, the state-run Abu Dhabi Investment

Authority as well as the chambers of commerce and industry in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the richest and largest of the federation's seven emirates.

The tour coincides with a business upturn in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, where multi-billion dollar industrial projects are underway or on the cards as part of a drive to diversify their oil-dependent economies.

The GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE have also launched projects that are expected to cost more than \$60 billion to boost their oil and gas production capacity to meet an expected increase in world demand.

Experts believe the GCC countries might resort to borrowing to finance such projects, given a sharp decline in their oil earnings and increased defence spending. "The delegation discussed

financing projects in the UAE in general but I have no information if they covered oil projects," a Japanese source said.

Japan is already a major investor in the region, with assets of about \$3.5 billion mainly in oil and gas.

It gets some 60 per cent of its oil imports of four million barrels per day from the Gulf and its trade with the six members peaked at \$35 billion in 1992.

Many Japanese banks stopped their dealings with the region during the Gulf war but resumed operations after the end of the conflict in early 1991.

A UAE official said the Japanese delegation was satisfied with his country's economy and the performance of its banks in the past two years.

"We showed them that our banks made record profits in 1992 and this naturally reflects better reconstruction efforts," the diplomat said, but provided no further details.

to study investment chances here," the official said.

The UAE maintained a trade surplus with Japan of \$1.7 billion in the first quarter of 1993 against \$1.67 billion for the same period last year, despite Tokyo's bid to boost exports to the wealthy region, according to official Japanese figures.

A report by the Dubai-based Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) said the surplus was due to the emirates' large oil exports to Japan.

Trade between the two countries has steadily grown in the past few years, standing at a record \$12.4 billion in 1992.

In Eritrea, which this year declared its independence from Ethiopia after a 30-year war, the delegation was to discuss the financing of various projects with officials there, notably to help with reconstruction efforts, the diplomat said, but provided no further details.

The reports were issued as EC members grappled with how to meet the strict fiscal criteria laid out in the Maastricht treaty on a monetary union by 1999 while trying to revive their economies in recession.

The ministers noted in a statement after their bi-annual review of the community's economic situation that several countries were having trouble meeting targets for the reduction of budget deficits and public debt.

But it added: "There is now widespread agreement that the best contribution that budget policy can now make to recovery is to announce credible, medium-term measures to reduce fiscal imbalances."

The ministers urged the 12 EC members to update their "convergence programmes" for meeting the Maastricht criteria after the adoption of their national budgets each year.

They said such trends would hamper efforts to promote medium-term growth to combat the community's growing unemployment crisis and could also make it more difficult to lower interest rates.

The key to reducing real interest rates (particularly long-term rates) and thus stimulating economic growth is a decrease in the public sector's claims on private saving," the bank governors said.

The ministers, meanwhile, welcomed Britain's convergence programme as ambitious yet realistic, but warned London it may have to tighten its belt further if economic recovery is slower than expected.

Some EC officials had earlier expressed concern over Britain's plans to cut its £50 billion (\$75 billion) budget deficit and queried whether it was committed to meeting the Maastricht deadline.

The meeting also urged moves to create the conditions for a further lowering of interest rates, such as budgetary rigour and efforts to hold down wages.

Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, whose country holds the rotating EC presidency, told a news conference the community's members were committed to reducing their deficits.

"There is hardly a margin of manoeuvre for economic recovery policies financed by an in-

EC ministers agree to tackle budget deficits

BRUSSELS (AFP) — European Community (EC) finance and economic ministers agreed here Monday on the need to cut growing budget deficits and begin yearly reviews of plans for tightening up their economies despite the recession.

The ministers acted after hearing reports from two EC panels that sounded the alarm over rising public debt and urged member states to cut their deficits rather than seek quick fixes for economic growth.

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Economic union between 3 Slavs to fill CIS gap

MOSCOW (AFP) — In deciding were headed," Mr. Kebich said to create a new economic union. "We had only one goal in mind: Ukraine, Russia and Belarus — "Get rid of (Mikhail) Gorbatchev."

The proposed economic union would considerably tighten ties between the three Slavic countries of independent States (CIS).

The premiers of the three countries agreed during a meeting held over the weekend here to work out by Sept. 1 a treaty on the new union in a move that much resembled the 1991 Belarussian agreement that led to the death of the Soviet Union.

"The situation has become unbearable," Russian Premier Yevgeny Kebich said in an interview with the Russian newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda Tuesday.

"Economic ties have broken down. The CIS became undone and we now understand that we're all falling into a hole," Mr. Kebich stated.

Trade disputes between Russia and Ukraine over energy supplies and uncoordinated economic reform programme have adversely affected industry in all three countries.

Factories and businesses throughout the former Soviet Union are still very much dependent on each other for spare parts and raw materials.

Ukraine's economy has been beaten by high inflation and plummeting production, partly due to the break-down in ties with other former Soviet republics.

The proposal came after Central Asian states began lobbying for an economic union with Turkey and Pakistan.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 14, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GEMINI: Eight strong aspects indicate that planetary forces are with you for increasing income and popularity. Get active early today and state your desires to the right people. Avoid trouble makers.

ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19)

Your mate can want you to do something difficult for you to put across but a close companion has some brilliant ideas how best to achieve this result.

TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20)

A partner can be a problem by checkmating a plan that is important to your progress and a good friend above the way to get this done, easily.

GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21)

A fellow associate puts obstacles in the path of your doing the tasks you wish to do well but one in power understands and eases the situation.

MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21)

Don't try to arrange entertainment interests in the daytime but tonight new conditions come up that give you a very satisfactory outlet.

LEO:

(July 22 to August 21)

There are a number of problems at your residence you would be wise to take under advisement until a later time and get into the practical aspects of business.

VIRGO:

(August 22 to September 22)

There are a number of communications you would be wise to

mill over before acknowledging but later you can get many tasks of value finished.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

The daytime finds you with material problems that require some time and much thought to handle so don't be hasty and tonight you can make surroundings just glow.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

You would certainly be wise not to force your aims on others today so be subtle and tactful but tonight you can join playmates for a great time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Fussing and fretting about private anxieties will get you nowhere but fast during the day but tonight home conditions should be ideal.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

You think you can get a purposeful friend to do your bidding but the price paid would be too high while tonight you can travel about seeing good friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

This is the day to be wise as a serpent and harlequin as a dove in the outside world of activity during the daytime but tonight you see ways to increase your goals.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Consider well any new or advanced ideas you think will work out for you and postpone any action while tonight you have a fine judgment to gain your goals.

World Bank has new plan to ensure loan effectiveness

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank, criticised for not paying close attention to projects after loans are made, unveiled new steps Monday it said would change the way it measures its success in helping countries.

The new measures, which emphasise greater efforts to make loans do the work they were designed for, follow a review of existing projects that showed an increasing pattern of failed efforts.

The bank assists member-countries in both reforming their economies so they work better and in a huge array of projects that include building roads and schools.

GBM celebrates a successful year

In Gulf Business Machines, an achiever is any member of staff who reaches or exceeds their business plan targets, be they in management, marketing, consultancy, engineering and maintenance or administration. Their recognition is membership of the '100% club', a grouping of top-performing staff originated by IBM.

Sixty GBM achievers were acclaimed by General Manager Mustafa Rugibani at the 1993 GBM Convention, which was staged this year in Malaysia's newest deluxe hotel, the Istana Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Rugibani told his guests: "I am very happy with our results for 1992. It was an outstanding year of achievement which is why we are here today. Group income increased more than 50 per cent and we added 50 employees to the payroll. We have achieved leadership among the information technology companies of the Gulf since we founded

become the measure of assessing effectiveness.

The bank made it clear that responsibility for making projects work would remain at the local level, arguing it would be a mistake for it to manage them on a continuing basis.

However, performance of the projects would be reviewed more regularly to catch problems at an earlier stage before they became fatal.

Mr. Stein told reporters that first and foremost, development is the responsibility of countries themselves.

"The bank's efforts to improve the development impact of its work, ultimately, can only be successful as the efforts by our borrowers to help themselves," he said.

A study completed in November 1992 by former World Bank vice president Willi Wapenbach found that among operations in progress, some 20 per cent were experiencing "major problems"

Nearly 50% of Americans never heard of NAFTA

NEW YORK (AFP) — More than four out of 10 Americans have never heard of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) due to be voted on by Congress in the autumn, a New York Times-CBS poll published Monday found.

Forty-four percent of the 1,363 adults questioned admitted they had read or heard nothing about the NAFTA treaty, which aims to create the world's largest free-trade zone, covering the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Forty-five per cent of respondents were aware of NAFTA, with 22 per cent backing it and the remaining 23 per cent opposed.

Seventeen per cent believed it would cost jobs in the United States, the survey found. If the treaty is adopted it will create a free-trade zone comprising 370 million people and a \$6 trillion per year economy. The survey was conducted between June 21 and 24.

Mr. Acharya said at least 68.9 per cent of the development expenditure would be met from front and loans.

The government hopes to collect 18.08 billion rupees in revenues which include fresh tax proposals, land revenues, increased sales taxes and tourism.

The visa fee has been raised 100 per cent to \$40 for 30 days. Similarly, an additional 100 rupees have been added to the 550 rupee embarkation tax. Earnings from the added embarkation tax will be used to tackle environmental problems.

Mr. Acharya has earmarked 6.32 billion rupees for economic services like agriculture, irrigation, increased duties on cigarettes, roasted tobacco, beer and liquor.

Duties have been lowered on goods from India, Tibet and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to make imports from those countries cheaper than those imported from European and other Asian countries like Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore.

Among the points announced by Mr. Acharya was the abolition of controls on imports of items like zips, cosmetics, imitation jewellery, wheel bearings, dry fruits including cloves, cardamom and betel nuts.

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Under the proposed budget, education up to seventh grade (lower secondary) has been made free benefitting more than 348,000 students nationwide.

Various industries are to get 5.6 billion rupees, while 810 million rupees were earmarked for communications development and 7.8 billion for social services like education, health, local development, clean drinking water and leakage control projects.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET			
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED INDEX	OPENING CLOSING PRICE	CHANGES IN PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	121.22	121.22	-0.00
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	121.22	121.22	-0.00
JORDAN EQUITY INVESTMENT BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
THE HORIZON BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN TRUST BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL & FINANCE BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
BEST ELMAL SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR INDUSTRY	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/JORDAN	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN INSURANCE	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN FRANC INSURANCE	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN GENERAL INSURANCE	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN AL-FAIR AL-ARAB INSURANCE	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PETROLEUM & REFINERY	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	121.64	121.64	-0.00
MUCHINAH EQUIP., REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PRESS PUBLISHING AL-AHRAM	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN MIDDLE EAST & CORPORATE HOTELS	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN EDUCATION	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN CONCRETE MANUFACTURING	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PETROLEUM & INVESTMENT	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN AL-MARJAH INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
Woolen Industries	121.64	121.64	-0.00
THE INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL & AGRICULTURAL	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN DAIRY	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PIPE MANUFACTURING	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PLASTIC MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN AL-KHALIDIEH & INVESTMENT	121.64	121.64	-0.00
ARAB AL-MARJAH INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
GENERAL INVESTMENT	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	121.64	121.64	-0.00
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	121.64	121.64	-0.00
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES - CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN RUBBER INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH JDEDO	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN FOOD INDUSTRIES / UNICO	121.64	121.64	-0.00
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN CENTER FOR PHARMS & CHEMICALS	121.64	121.64	-0.00
JORDAN KUWAIT CO. FOR AGRIC. & FOOD PROD.	121.64	121.64	-0.00
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	121.64	121.64	-0.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,495,777		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	839,214		
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1,121,114		

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets		
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.4770	1.4760
Deutsche Mark	1.7298	1.7315
Swiss Franc	1.5299	1.5310
French Franc	5.9065	5.9087**
Japanese Yen	109.35	108.85
European Currency Unit	1.1270	1.1305**

USD Per SGD
European Opening - 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 13/7/1993				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.18	3.37	3.56
Sterling Pound	5.93	5.87	5.75	5.73
Deutsche Mark	7.31	7.12	6.93	6.37
Swiss Franc	4.53	4.50	4.44	4.25
French Franc	8.18	7.75	7.00	6.25
Japanese Yen	3.25	3.18	3.12	3.12
European Currency Unit	8.06	7.51	7.15	6.75

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 13/7/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0292	1.0545
Deutsche Mark	0.4028	0.4045
Swiss Franc	0.4557	0.4560
French Franc	0.1180	0.1186
Japanese Yen	0.6403	0.6435
Dutch Guilder	0.3580	0.3598
Swedish Krona	0.0870	0.0874
Italian Lira	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	0.01953	0.01965

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8260	1.8550
Lebanese Lira	0.0367	0.0420
Saudi Riyal	0.1557	0.1666
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2200	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1590	0.1932
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
UAE Dirham	0.1890	0.1932
Greek Drachma	0.2990	0.3200
Cypriot Pound	1.3450	1.3750

Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs

Canadian dollar 1.2775/85

Dutch guilder 1.7215/25

Swiss francs 1.9475/85

Belgian francs 1.5228/35

French francs 35.54/55

Italian lire 5.8710/60

Japanese yen 158/1589

Swedish kronas 108.80/90

Norwegian crowns 7.9688/780

Danish crowns 7.3400/500

Gold \$6850/950

One sterling \$1.4820/30

One ounce of gold \$391.20/391.70

China widens offensive to restore economic order

PEKING (AFP) — The Chinese government widened its offensive to cool off the economy Tuesday, ordering a halt to real estate speculation that has largely fueled overheated investment and corruption.

At the same time, Peking won unanimous support from the country's four main state-run banks for its decision last week to restrict credit.

It also decided to review all new investment projects in an effort to centralise funds for infrastructure, and would scrap those which did not meet criteria set down by the central government.

Bolstered by this initial success, Zhu Rongji, the new central bank chief and vice premier in charge of the economy, stated the focus of the offensive to the freewheeling real estate market,

official reports said.

Construction Minister Hou Jie, acting on Mr. Zhu's behalf, announced seven measures to crack down on the real estate market, they said, including an order for land administration departments, banks and financial institutions to break off all links with real estate businesses.

Local governments must reclaim all land that was leased without the required licenses, Mr. Hou told a national meeting of real estate officials.

Construction of horse race tracks and golf courses would be banned without central government approval, he said, adding that investment in villas, holiday resorts, luxury hotels and office buildings would be strictly limited.

The cabinet was also preparing to dispatch an investigation team

to the provinces, especially those on the coast, to review the thousands of special developments that have mushroomed in the last year.

Any zone that received legal authorisation, but was outside state limits on land development, would be stripped of its license.

Licenses that have already been issued would be recalled.

"Some zones set up without approval could be halted," the China Daily said.

China's shift to a market economy last year opened the flood gates for widespread speculation in the real estate market, which lacks a regulatory framework.

The absence of adequate controls, with scarce farmland being plowed under to make way for new projects and local banks dishing out loans to fund the

highly speculative ventures.

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Khmer Rouge offered government role, proposes joining army

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khiem Samphan proposed Tuesday that his guerrilla force merge with Cambodia's new United Armed Forces and said his faction would happily accept a role in the coalition government.

"We have proposed to establish a quadpartite army so as to avoid clashes and confrontation in the military field," Mr. Khiem Samphan said.

He said the offer was made during an audience with the Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk "in the spirit of national reconciliation and in response to an appeal from His Royal Highness."

Mr. Khiem Samphan also said the Khmer Rouge would participate "with pleasure" in the new government.

Prince Sihanouk recently offered the recalcitrant faction a government role, a FUNCINPEC official said.

The Khmer Rouge nominal leader told reporters that Prince Ranariddh said his father suggested giving the faction some ministerial posts.

"If such is the case we would accept with pleasure in the spirit of national reconciliation. But for our part we demand no ministerial posts, only the role of counsellor," Mr. Khiem Samphan said.

But the FUNCINPEC official dismissed the idea that the

Khmer Rouge's ambitions ran only as far as an advisory role.

"For the time being they say they want an advisory role but they want very much to join the army and government," he said.

The military wings of the three main parties in the new government, FUNCINPEC, the smaller Buddhist, Liberal Democratic Party and the former Phnom Penh regime, agreed recently to merge their forces into a new united army.

But the FUNCINPEC official cautioned against premature optimism.

"We have to set some conditions to test their sincerity. If they are sincere, first they should give back Preah Vihear Temple, stop all military activity and open up their zones," he said.

Mr. Khiem Samphan refused to say whether the Khmer Rouge would hand back the 1,000-year-old temple, which it seized on July 7 in a pre-dawn raid.

Speaking to the press after meeting with the deputy head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission Behrooz Sadry and the Q.N. force commander Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, Mr. Khiem Samphan refused to say when the Khmer Rouge would join the Cambodian Armed Forces.

Both U.N. officials were cautious about labelling the Khmer

Rouge leader's proposal a prelude to peace.

"We must keep our hopes high that it is a solution. It's at least the beginning of dialogue that may lead to a final solution," Mr. Sadry said.

Gen. Sanderson was also hesitant to predict any immediate ease of tension on the battlefield.

"Our position is one of brokers trying to open up a dialogue on behalf of the Cambodian factions. But they have to decide the modalities of this (proposal). They have to decide it at the political level. Then they have to decide it at the military level," he said.

Prince Sihanouk's decision to offer the Khmer Rouge a role in the government came as a surprise as the prince issued a statement last week saying that not a single member of the faction would either participate in the government or work as an advisor to it.

The United States has stated that Khmer Rouge inclusion could be a barrier to aid for the country's cash strapped government.

Mr. Sadry did not wish to comment on whether aid could now be jeopardised.

"It's too premature to talk in terms of their involvement in any kind of government. I think we are just talking now of the beginning of discussions," he said.

The peacekeepers said their concern was how to maintain the current dialogue during the absence of both Khiem Samphan and Prince Sihanouk.

Khiem Samphan fled to Bangkok Tuesday afternoon and the prince was scheduled to leave for North Korea on July 15 and was not expected back until early September.

But Khmer Rouge spokesman Mak Ben and former ambassador to China Chan Youran, who flew into the capital with Mr. Khiem Samphan, will remain here along with two other advisors, Mr. Sadry said.

Prince Sihanouk did not say when he would return.

"But he said he hoped to see me very soon," Mr. Sadry said.

Meanwhile Prince Ranariddh met with fellow vice-president of the coalition government Hun Sen to discuss the negotiations with the Khmer Rouge, a FUNCINPEC official said.

The official said he did not think that the Phnom Penh party would raise major objections to the inclusion of their arch foe in the new government.

The Paris agreement includes all four factions so we have to discuss (the Khmer Rouge's) role," he said, referring to the 1991 peace accord that brought a formal end to Cambodia's civil war.

Gore vows quick aid for U.S. flood victims

ST LOUIS, Missouri (Agencies) — The raging Mississippi River began battering an area south of St Louis after causing widespread devastation in the midwest, destroying crops and homes and leaving 300,000 people without safe drinking water.

Vice President Al Gore, on a tour of the flood-ravaged river basin, vowed to expedite federal aid to victims.

"It's the worst flooding I've ever seen," Mr. Gore said in St Louis. Earlier in the day, he told homeowners in Illinois that federal relief could arrive by the following day.

Thousands were forced to evacuate their homes in Des Moines, Iowa because of flooding and the city's water system was tainted by flood water.

Officials said the city could be without potable drinking water for up to a month.

Residents carrying plastic jugs lined up for their five-gallon (19-litre) rations of drinking water in the flood-stricken Des Moines area, and hundreds of midwesterners were inoculated against water-borne diseases.

The rain-swollen Mississippi River and its tributaries continued to swallow up land Tuesday in the upper midwest as residents and National Guardsmen piled sandbags to try to save homes and businesses.

Damage across the region will far exceed the \$1.2 billion in aid

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gonzalez names new cabinet

MADRID (R) — Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Tuesday named a new 16-member cabinet, a month after he was returned to office in a general election, a government spokesman said. The new cabinet included eight new ministers with three women and six independents. Four ministers retained their posts. Deputy Prime Minister Narcis Serra was among those who kept their jobs. He will take on additional responsibilities for coordinating economic policy. Mr. Serra and Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who also retained his post, were the only two to have been in the cabinet since the Socialists first came to power in 1982. Mr. Gonzalez created a new Ministry of Commerce and Tourism, which will take over some responsibilities from the Industry Ministry, and a new Ministry of the Prime Minister's Office, which will combine the roles of government spokesperson and the prime ministerial secretariat.

French court confirms scandal sentence

PARIS (R) — A French appeal court Tuesday confirmed a four-year prison sentence on the former head of the National Blood Bank, Michel Garretta, for knowingly distributing AIDS-contaminated blood products to haemophiliacs. The court, ruling after an appeal hearing of former health officials accused of involvement in France's worst modern health scandal, also confirmed that Jean-Pierre Allain, ex-director of transfusion research, should serve four years with two suspended. Mr. Garretta and Mr. Allain were the principal defendants in a scandal in which some 1,250 haemophiliacs were infected — of whom more than 300 have died. During the six-week hearing, which ended last month and was effectively a retrial, they and two other former health officials faced charges of fraud, criminal negligence and failure to assist persons in danger over the contaminated transfusions in the period up to the end of 1985.

14 die in S. Africa township violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Gunmen firing at random from a moving car killed 14 people and injured 11 in two South African black townships on the eve of renewed peace talks in the Johannesburg region Tuesday. Police spokesman Piet Van Deventer said nine were killed on the streets of adjoining Sebokeng and Evaton townships, 50 kilometres south of Johannesburg. Another five victims died of their wounds in Sebokeng Hospital following the shooting spree which erupted at 7:45 p.m. Monday. The violence happened on the eve of talks in Johannesburg between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its main black political rival, Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

Malawi talks collapse

LILONGWE (AFP) — Talks between the Malawi government and the opposition on the formation of the interim national council to run the country until general elections have collapsed, opposition and government sources indicated Tuesday. It was unclear when the talks between the opposition coalition of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and the government's Presidential Committee on Dialogue (PCD), which began late last month, would resume. At a crucial meeting on June 21, the opposition and the government agreed the PAC would operate alongside parliament and the cabinet to oversee a transition to multi-party politics through the National Executive Council (NEC) and the National Consultative Council (NCC), following the rejection of continued single-party rule in a referendum on June 14. But when parliament met on June 29, it simply withdrew a bill to legalise the formation of the two councils, without explanation.

Police checkpoint attacked in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Unidentified men opened fire on a police checkpoint in Karachi Tuesday wounding a policeman as tensions mounted following the arrest of dozens of opposition supporters in the southern Pakistani city. Vehicles and a petrol station were set ablaze in unrest overnight Tuesday after the arrest since Sunday of more than 150 activists of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), an ethnic party based in the southern province of Sindh, police chief R.K. Brohi told a press conference. One constable was shot in the chest in the attack on the police post but was out of danger, hospital sources said. The MQM is campaigning for by-elections scheduled to be held on July 22. The local administration in the MQM's urban strongholds of Karachi and Hyderabad have refused to allow electoral rallies and protests have turned into confrontations with the police.

Clinton approval rating set at 45%

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton failed to improve his job rating with the public despite apparently overshadowing foreign leaders at the Tokyo summit according to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll. It said that on June 30 before last week's Group of Seven summit, Mr. Clinton has a job approval rating of 46 per cent while 47 per cent disapproved. The rest did not have an opinion. In the new poll, July 9 through 11, his approval was one percentage point lower at 45 per cent, while 48 per cent disapproved of his handling of the presidential job. The poll of 1,002 adults had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. On Mr. Clinton's handling of the economy, 60 per cent disapproved while 34 per cent approved and 59 per cent disapproved. This was despite Mr. Clinton's widely publicised claims at the summit that progress made on a tariff reduction plan and on trade with Japan would help create U.S. jobs.

Russia calls for immediate ceasefire in Abkhazia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia called Tuesday for an immediate ceasefire in Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia, ahead of a new round of negotiations on the bloody conflict by senior officials from Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia.

Russia was calling on all parties to forge an immediate agreement "as Moscow did on June 26," said Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembski.

Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukov, Russia's representative at Monday's round, said the talks broke down over the Abkhaz separatists' demand to bring their parliament back to the province's capital Sukhumi after the withdrawal of Georgian forces.

U.S. to press N. Korea to open nuclear sites

GENEVA (R) — The United States is expected to press North Korea Wednesday to accept international inspections of two suspected nuclear sites — or face the threat of U.N. sanctions.

The two countries, ideological foes for almost half a century, are resuming talks after a break of just over a month in a bid to defuse the crisis over Pyongyang's announcement in March that it was pulling out of a key nuclear treaty.

The earlier talks, held at the United Nations in New York, ended with North Korea agreeing to suspend its threat to withdraw from the 1968 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a bulwark against the spread of atomic weapons.

But, in the run-up to this week's new round, U.S. leaders have issued a series of stern warnings that North Korea is heading

for trouble if it continues to refuse access to suspected nuclear facilities.

At issue are two sites near its Yongbyon reactor, 95 kilometres north of Pyongyang. Washington suspects materials for nuclear weapons are being developed there but North Korea says they are secret conventional military sites.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told North Korea last week that Washington would not let the talks drag on indefinitely. South Korea has accused the North of stalling to gain time for its nuclear plans.

"If we can't resolve the problem... we'll turn to the U.N. and set it addressed at the U.N."

Mr. Christopher said, adding that the United States had already begun to consider what kind of sanctions might be imposed.

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Sports

Marseille boss accuses investors of using 'dirty' methods

PARIS (AP) — Bernard Tapie, the Olympique Marseille president, Tuesday accused investigators of using "gangster" methods in the soccer bribes scandal that has left his political ambitions increasingly exposed.

The former government minister launched his attack as Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie was released from custody, a day after embarrassing his club leaders by going back on his denial of involvement in attempts to bribe Valenciennes players.

Eydelie remains charged with corruption. Jean-Pierre Berney, the Marseille general manager, is the only person left in custody of the five people charged. He still denies offering money to three Valenciennes players on the eve of a league match.

Mr. Tapie said, in an intervention with the Marseille newspaper Le Soir, that "no serious, real proof of Olympique Marseille's guilt" had been found by investigators.

The outspoken Marseille owner also cast doubt on the way in which Eydelie changed his evidence to investigating magistrate Bernard Beffy.

"The methods being used to make people talk are those normally used by the big gangsters," he added. "The means by which custody orders, seizure of documents and raids have been carried out are unique in police history."

Mr. Tapie faces a related investigation into claims that he offered money to Valenciennes coach Boro Primorac to take the blame for the bribes scandal.

He has denied the accusations and countered in the interview that despite the increasing pressure he had no intention of quitting the club, French champions and winners of the European Championship Cup.

"I will not abandon my ship

until it is safely back in port," he said. "Now is the time when he need even greater means to face the crisis."

Mr. Tapie admitted that the front page revelations that have kept the French public spellbound for the past two weeks were taking a toll on Marseille's image.

He told Le Soir that of the 500 concerns prepared to take a shareholding in the champion club before the bribes inquiry was launched only about 20 remained.

The revelations have already had a negative effect on his political dealings.

Mr. Tapie, a businessman tycoon turned politician, was minister of urban affairs in the last Socialist government. He is said to have ambitions to become mayor of Marseille on the back of the football club's success as a launchpad for a return to the national political stage.

But last week Socialist Party leader Michel Rocard called off a meeting with its Radical Left Movement ally, because Mr. Tapie was scheduled to be among the radicals' delegation.

Mr. Rocard's decision has caused a split between the two parties. But the former prime minister justified this by saying: "It would only have become a Rocard-Tapie press conference on Olympic Marseille."

He said he would apply Tuesday for the case to be transferred.

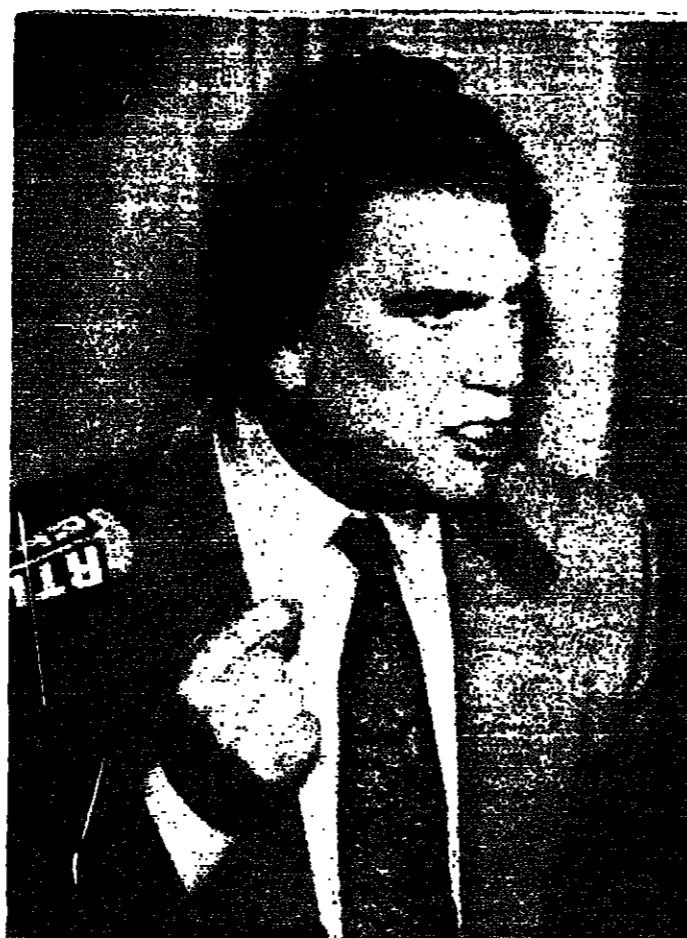
Eydelie said through his lawyer Patrick Lefevre that players were increasingly being manipulated by their club owners.

Mr. Lefevre said this kind of

scandal "happens more often in Argentina and Italy where all the games are fixed."

"My client considers that this affair has gone over the heads of the players who are manipulated by the leaders of football clubs," added the lawyer.

Evidence of other attempts to



Bernard Tapie

Bernard had pressured his husband into offering the bribes.

Pelletier joined the attack on the way in which the investigation was being handled in Valenciennes by Judge Beffy and state prosecutor Eric de Montgolfier.

He said he would apply Tues-

day for the case to be transferred.

Eydelie said through his lawyer Patrick Lefevre that players were increasingly being manipulated by their club owners.

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Evidence of other attempts to

buy matches, based on Eydelie's new account, will be passed to the prosecution department in Marseille, the Valenciennes prosecu-

tor said.

Jean-Jacques Eydelie did raise a rather dubious system," said Mr. De Montgolfier.

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Evidence of other attempts to

Tour de France Riders ponder Indurain's invincibility

VILLARD-DE-LANS, France (R) — The mountains loomed into view at the Tour de France Tuesday but riders had their sights instead on the towering statue of the apparently invincible Miguel Indurain.

The Spaniard grabbed back the leader's yellow jersey in Monday's ninth stage with one of the devastating time trial performances for which he is famed.

It was the sixth time the yellow jersey had changed hands in this year's race but riders spent their rest day pondering whether there was even a remote chance of it finding a new owner before the Tour ends in Paris on July 25.

Indurain, winner of the Tour for the past two years, seems firmly in control even before the race crosses its first mountain pass Wednesday with the tough stage from Villard-De-Lans to Sierre-Chevalier in the Alps.

His perennial rival Claudio Chiappucci of Italy, relegated to

14th place more than five minutes behind, had no doubts about it.

"Of course I will attack him in the mountains," he said. "I couldn't do otherwise. But you can't forget Indurain will have another time trial just before Paris."

"I'm very disappointed but I think that beating him is practically impossible."

Before the race started, Indurain seemed to have four serious rivals — Chiappucci, world champion Gianni Bugno of Italy and the Swiss pair of Alex Zuehl and Tony Rominger.

Of these, only Bugno is relatively close, fourth overall and two minutes 32 seconds down.

Bugno, while not sounding over-confident, was not quite prepared to accept that the race was over.

"For me and for the climbers, the Tour starts tomorrow," he said. "I hope it won't be just racing for second place."

But he acknowledged Indu-

rain's supremacy against the clock. "We have to admit once and for all that he's in a class of his own in time trials," the Italian said.

"He's much too strong and once you accept that principle, you can't be too disappointed."

"The one thing I regret is that he's the same age as me. If things had been better, God would have put me in competition with his brother."

Curiously, Monday's time trial at the Lac De Madine had an Indurain first and last.

Younger brother Prudencio was 17th, 17 minutes 48 seconds behind the champion and would probably have been eliminated on time delay had Miguel not lost several seconds after a puncture.

Former champions Laurent Fignon, who is 37th, and Greg Lemond, not taking part, believe Indurain could have problems in the mountains if all his rivals persistently attack.

But both said they feared everyone would tacitly accept Indurain's invincibility and watch each other as they eyed the chances of finishing second or third.

Dutch rider Eric Breakfin, who started as an outsider but is now Indurain's closest rival at one minute 35 seconds, has already said he would not attack in the next two tough mountain stages in the Alps.

"If we come out of the Alps with the same time gap, I could attack in the Pyrenees," he said. "In the Alps the important thing will not be to lose time."

The only rider playing down Indurain's prospects in Indurain's day in the mountains and you could lose minutes.

"Everyone will want to attack me on Wednesday and I'm afraid I won't be able to reply. I'm heavy. I don't have the same assets as Chiappucci, Bugno and Rominger who carry 10 or 15 kilos less than me up the climbs."

It is the same old Indurain



Miguel Indurain

knows, me no better than anyone else, how your body will react to passing suddenly from the flat to the mountains.

"For 10 days we've been riding at 45 kph on average. One bad day in the mountains and you could lose minutes."

"Everyone will want to attack me on Wednesday and I'm afraid I won't be able to reply. I'm heavy. I don't have the same assets as Chiappucci, Bugno and Rominger who carry 10 or 15 kilos less than me up the climbs."

It is the same old Indurain

refrain but, in the past, he has proved a much better climber than he cares to admit and the invaluable support of his Banesto team, packed with mountain experts.

David Boiffa, manager of Chiappucci's Carrera team, has a totally different way of looking at it.

"The course was made for Indurain. They've killed off the Tour before it got halfway," he said. "We can sit back in our armchairs and wait quietly till we reach Paris."

Sydney welcomes IOC report, but remains cautious

SYDNEY (R) — Olympic bid officials Tuesday welcomed a technical report which put Sydney firmly ahead in the chase for the 2000 games but warned their quest was "still not in the bag."

"We are pleased with the result but I think it is also important to bring it to a note of caution," Bruce Baird, the senior politician in charge of the Australian bid, told reporters.

Mr. Baird said although Barcelona and Atlanta were both ranked by Olympic inspectors as the best technical bids for the 1992 and 1996 games, Salt Lake City was also ranked first technically for the 1998 Winter Olympics but lost out to the Japanese city of Nagoya.

"It (Salt Lake City) nearly went out in the first round of voting, the same could happen to us," Mr. Baird said.

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) technical report, released officially Tuesday

and April, is intended as a guideline for the IOC members when they vote in September.

Competitors in 14 sports will be able to walk to venues.

Australian bookmakers were less cautious than the Sydney bid officials in putting the city as clear favourite at 6-4 on to win the Olympics with Peking at 5-4 against and Manchester at 5-1 against more than 60 of them.

The technical report placed a number of question marks against the present suitability of Peking and was critical of the city's low standard of environmental protection and plans to house athletes in tower blocks rising to 22 storeys.

Manchester and Berlin fared reasonably well, while doubts were raised about Istanbul.

The report was scathing about rank outsider Brasilia, where the general standards were "currently below what is expected of an Olympic bid."

Mr. Baird said the report should do the talking for the Sydney bid, avoiding and slanging match with other bidding cities.

The report says it all. The report shows by comparing one city to another, that we come out as the best and for that we make no apologies but does not mean we don't have to do a lot of strong work in between."

The report said Sydney had an overwhelming number of points in its favour. These included its safe environment, widespread support from governments, businessmen and environmental

groups and the compact nature of the bid.

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advantageous to us," Wu Zhongyuan, spokesman for Peking 2000 Olympic Games Bid Committee, said. "We are absolutely filled with confidence."

Mr. Wu said the report, which he called "relatively objective," pointed out China's advantages and wherever a shortcoming was mentioned acknowledged the organisers were already aware of it.

"The report pointed out that we are aware of the problems and have made concrete plans to overcome them," he said.

"In areas where we lag we can certainly catch up by the year 2000."

Insufficient foreign language speakers and an inadequate telecommunications network were drawbacks which would need to be addressed, the report said.

By contrast, the inspectors were impressed by Peking's ability to house all IOC members and other Olympic administrators in one hotel.

"They liked our idea of 'one big family,'" Mr. Wu said. "They were impressed by the support from the people and the government."

"All I can say is well done Sydney. They've got a great bid but what they know now is that they've got very good opposition and that's Manchester."

"I am not going to participate in a ranking game. The report does not lend itself to a ranking game."

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Racer dies of injuries

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Davey Allison died Tuesday morning of injuries he suffered when a helicopter he was piloting crashed in the infield at Talladega Superspeedway, his racing team said.

Farmer, the only other occupant of the helicopter, was in Carraway Methodist Medical Centre in Birmingham. He was in critical but stable condition after suffering a broken rib, collarbone and nose.

AL-ZAMIL

AIR CONDITIONERS



6 Muslim countries to send troops to Bosnia safe areas

Combined agency despatches

ISLAMABAD — Six Muslim countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to supply 7,600 soldiers or more if requested by the United Nations to protect six Muslim security zones in Bosnia, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Bosnia's Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic expressed satisfaction on the decision taken at a two-day meeting in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad by member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"We are on the right track. We will secure enough troops," Mr. Silajdzic told AFP. "Now the main question concerns applying the measures adopted."

Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sadiq Khanji said the conference had adopted a "plan of action" envisaging concrete steps to mitigate sufferings of the Muslim population and calling for a cessation of hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Specific commitments" have been made by Bangladesh, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey, Tunisia and Palestine — which is recognised as a state by the OIC — to deploy troops in the former Yugoslav state, Mr. Khanji said at the closing session here.

He said the number of troops offered by the participants would be more than the so-called "light option" which calls for stationing 7,600 peacekeepers at six designated safe areas in Bosnia.

"We are prepared to provide additional troops if requested by the United Nations" to enforce peace in the region, where the mainly Muslim Bosnian army is fighting Serbian and Croat forces, he said.

Observers said this is probably the first time the OIC has taken a concrete step on an international issue.

Pakistan, Bangladesh and Malaysia are to dispatch troops immediately to Bosnia, the sources said.

Other countries, such as Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, have requested U.N. clarification of the troops mandate in Bosnia.

Iran and Turkey have express-

ed willingness to participate in protecting U.N. peacekeepers and their appeal to do so will be transmitted for assessment by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, a diplomatic source said.

Iran led the group, offering 5,000 to 10,000 soldiers, another source said.

In Sarajevo, meanwhile, Bosnia's Muslim president and the leader of Bosnian Serbs have signed an accord that could restore utilities to Sarajevo, as shellings reportedly killed 12 people waiting for scarce water.

Bosnian radio quoted the Bosnian army as saying 12 were killed and 15 were wounded Monday when a shell hit a water tap in the suburb of Dobrinja, near the airport.

Radio reported two others killed and three wounded by another shell hitting the old city Monday.

Peter Kessler, of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, reported earlier Monday that the last major source of drinking water in Sarajevo had been cut because of lack of fuel for a pump.

The acute water shortage has raised concerns that disease could spread. "Kessler reported 200 to 300 cases of dysentery daily because of residents using dirty groundwater.

Mr. Kessler said the pump serving a well at the city brewery stopped operating Sunday because of a Serb blockade of fuel. The well had been supplying less than 20 per cent of Sarajevo's normal water needs. The man pumping water is in Serb-controlled territory.

Monday's agreement on restoring water and utilities was signed by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. It was negotiated by Bernard Kouchner, France's former health minister, in separate meetings with the rival leaders.

Mr. Kouchner said U.N. experts would work out the details. He said water, gas and power could be back within a few days if all went well.

Mr. Kouchner said Mr. Izetbegovic agreed in principle to attend peace talks in Geneva if utilities are restored and if the

warring parties cease offensive action during the talks.

In a letter read on Bosnian radio, Mr. Izetbegovic urged Dr. Ghali to back his demands.

Bosnia's collective presidency has refused to accept a three-way partition of their country along ethnic lines as proposed by Serbian and Croatian leaders. It fears the division would leave Muslims jammed into a tiny state between hostile Serbian and Croatian neighbours.

Serbs, who control about 70 per cent of Bosnia, reject Bosnian Muslim proposals to maintain Bosnia as a federation of provinces that would not be formed strictly along ethnic lines.

The New York Times quoted a classified State Department document as saying that the Serb-Croat partition plan could require the settlement of 1.5 million more people.

The report does not promote or criticise the plan, but predicted that masses of Serbs, Croats and Muslims would move either through choice or coercion if the plan is implemented, the paper reported in Tuesday editions.

Muslim-led government troops were reported Tuesday to have launched a major offensive outside the disputed Bosnian city of Mostar but were on the retreat from advancing Serbs on another front.

Croat sources and U.N. peacekeepers in Mostar in southwestern Bosnia reported that artillery duels and close-quarters battles between Muslims and Croats erupted at the southern entrances to the city early on Tuesday.

"It's an all-out Muslim offensive on our positions," Veso Veger, spokesman for the Croatian defence council (HVO) told Reuters in Zagreb by telephone from Mostar, in south-west Bosnia.

He said thousands of Muslim troops were trying to cut a key road south of the city.

The upsurge of fighting threatened to disrupt U.N. relief operations in Bosnia, and followed warning from peace mediators that the United Nations may have to withdraw from Bosnia if the situation deteriorates.

He said thousands of Muslim troops were trying to cut a key road south of the city.

The team was expected to leave the area later in the day or on Wednesday.

On Sunday Mr. Ross carried a warning from Mr. Rabin to Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, to curb the guerrillas. Officials hinted Mr. Ross on Tuesday brought Israeli Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's reply to the Rabin warning.

The Lebanon attacks coincided with the arrival of the Ross team, which is trying to resolve an Israeli-Palestinian deadlock in the 20-month-old talks.

In Damascus on Tuesday, Syria welcomed a fresh pledge by President Bill Clinton that the United States would work as a full partner in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"Therefore it is necessary to give another chance to save the peace process and work to push it on the right direction," wrote the official daily Al Baath.

Many had been born in the



BAGHDAD PROTEST: Iraqi women demonstrate outside the U.N. office in Baghdad Tuesday against the U.N. inspection team and the U.S. military action grows over the refusal of Iraq to allow U.N. monitoring of two missile sites (AFP photo)

Jordan steps up anti-drugs battle

By John Halaby
The Associated Press

emirate and had few ties to Jordan.

Unemployment has soared since the returnees flooded into the country, boosting a population already swollen by Palestinian refugees by 10 per cent almost overnight.

Dr. Nassir and government officials conceded that Jordan had economic and social problems before it was burdened with the returnees, but they stressed that the unexpected influx has "exacerbated these problems."

"Most of the cases of consumption and possession we have been 1990 involved hashish," said the drug control official. "But now we find a surprisingly high number of hard-drug cases involving heroin and opium."

But "the situation has been changing in the last three years with an increasing number of Jordanians, mainly returnees from the Gulf, abusing drugs," a senior narcotics control official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that many of the returnees were well-to-do and brought a drug habit with them from the Gulf.

Sari Nassir, dean of the Sociology Department at Jordan University, said: "Frustration fuelled by the sudden transformation of Jordanian society, as well as severe unemployment, are major factors in the increasing tendency among the returnees to turn to narcotics."

More than 320,000 Jordanians and Palestinians, many with Jordanian nationality, fled Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion, or were expelled after the liberation in February 1991.

Many had been born in the

three years.

The study noted that in the last decade, 25,405 kilograms of hashish were seized — more than half of that since 1990.

The figures are alarming Jordan's security forces, who are now intensifying their operations to prevent the spread of illegal drugs in this conservative Kingdom.

Brigadier Hisham Ensour, head of the Anti-Narcotics Bureau, said increased cooperation with security forces in Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt had helped smash several major smuggling rings and foil "hundreds of cases of attempted smuggling."

He said increased patrols along the Kingdom's borders with Syria and Saudi Arabia to curb the smuggling of cigarettes and electronic goods has helped the fight against narcotics.

Colonel Adnan Shamayleh,

Ensour's deputy, said the price of drugs had gone up in Lebanon and Syria following the recent destruction of marijuana and opium fields in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon.

"Limited supplies, coupled with the high risks that the smugglers face, have driven up the prices by at least 50 per cent," making the rewards for the smugglers more attractive, he said.

Col. Shamayleh said the average price in Lebanon of one kilogramme of good quality hashish has gone up from \$1,000 at the start of the year to \$1,500.

Journalists' bodies recovered

(Continued from page 1)

One of Reuters' Somali staff.

They were recovered by Somali staff who have worked for Reuters and other media for the past 18 months of civil war, famine and an anti-U.N. guerrilla struggle which has killed about 100 Somalis and 35 U.N. peacekeepers.

Social workers said that drug abuse statistics could be much higher than the official figures since hashish is popular in Jordan, and, because it is not considered addictive, users do not show up on rehabilitation records.

The study said there were cases of drug smuggling reported over last 10 years — 485, or more than one-third, of them in the last

NEWS IN BRIEF

Homemade bomb exploded near Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — A homemade bomb exploded near the fence of a sports club in the affluent Cairo neighbourhood of Zamalek early Tuesday. Police said no one was hurt. The small bundle of explosives caused slight damage to the fence of the Gezira sports centre. The sound of the explosion was not noticed by Zamalek residents living less than one kilometre away. No one claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Indian president stops over in Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma discussed the promotion of Tehran-New Delhi ties with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani during a brief stopover in Tehran Tuesday. The Islamic Republic News Agency said Dr. Sharma was en route to the Ukraine. It quoted him as saying India was keen on developing ties with the Islamic republic. IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying he was satisfied with the development of Tehran-New Delhi ties and added that India was one of Iran's "favourite countries for cooperation."

Liberian parties reach military settlement

GENEVA (AP) — Warring Liberian factions have agreed in U.N.-sponsored talks here on military aspects of a peace settlement. U.N. spokesman Therese Gastaut said Tuesday. She warned, however, that it was too early to say that a ceasefire agreement was in force, since mediators for the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) were seeking a "global approach." A member of the delegation from Liberia's interim government said the main rebel faction, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), led by Charles Taylor, refused to turn over its arms to the Nigerian-led peacekeeping force in the country since 1990. ECOMOG, OAU mediator Canaan Banana said late Monday an overall settlement would include not only agreement on a ceasefire and the encampment and disarming of hostile forces, but also the "much more difficult" political questions.

Settler fakes heart attack to avoid extradition

TEL AVIV (AP) — A West Bank settler avoided extradition to the United States on murder charges Tuesday by faking a heart attack, officials said. U.S. marshals were due to accompany American Robert Manning, 41, back to the United States where he is accused of posting a letter bomb to a secretary in 1980. But he collapsed when they arrived to take him to Tel Aviv airport. A doctor examined Mr. Manning and found he had swallowed pills, which had been smuggled into jail by a visitor, to slow down his heart rate. Officials said he would now be extradited in the coming days.

Iran names Arak as most polluted city

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has named Arak, which has a population of 300,000 people, as its most polluted city. Iranian Television reported Monday. The television, quoting a study by environmental department officials, said 1,000 factories released 1.3 million tonnes of toxic carbon monoxide into the air in the city southwest of Tehran each year. Respiratory problems were the main illnesses there and experts expected pollution to worsen after an oil refinery and a big petrochemical complex start operating, it added.

Betselem launches drive against killing of children

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — The Israeli human rights group Betselem, alarmed by apparent public and official indifference, launched a campaign Tuesday to stem the rising toll of Palestinian children killed by Israeli soldiers.

It said Israeli soldiers had killed 232 Palestinians younger than 17 since the Palestinian revolt against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip began in December 1987.

"Thirty-eight of them were killed during the last six months," Betselem said in a statement at a news conference.

"This is more than double the number of children killed in the entire previous year and of a magnitude unprecedented since the intifada began."

The organisation, which monitors Israeli action in the occupied territories, said it hoped to spur a write-in campaign to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also defence minister, to curb the killings.

The army issued a statement saying orders "forbid shooting at children." It said the children were killed mainly when near scenes of confrontation or by soldiers who were not aware of their presence.

Betselem said: "With 232 children dead in five and a half years, the absence of deliberate intent does not detract from or mitigate the gravity of the guilt borne by the security forces."

"The principal reason for the killing of children in such large numbers is a deliberate policy of opening fire in situations in which soldiers are not in mortal danger."

Betselem said the army's own statements showed soldiers' lives were not endangered in at least 32 of the 38 incidents in which children were killed in the past six months.

The organisation documented recent cases in which soldiers killed a 14-year-old boy who was fleeing from a clash in a village, a four-year-old boy who was in a car that turned away from a roadblock, and a 20-month-old boy who was sheltering with his father inside a shop.

Betselem said it hoped its campaign — to last one day for each of the 35 children killed in the past six months — would make the Israeli public aware of the level of killing in the occupied territories.

The organisation said it hoped public pressure would lead to a change in open-fire rules to stop soldiers from firing unless their lives are endangered.

Spokesman Eitan told the Associated Press said Betselem was "specifically suggesting the army reduce the permitted use of lethal weapons to life-threatening situations."

A dozen demonstrators holding up posters of dead children at a busy intersection faced about 50 hecklers. Police watching over the demonstration did not prevent hecklers from grabbing and ripping up posters.

Mr. Feinher noted that it was the first time Betselem brought its case to the public. "We have not succeeded in making this a public issue," he said.

A total of 234 Palestinians 15 or under have been killed in clashes with Israelis since the beginning of the uprising in December 1987, among 1,129 Palestinians overall. Palestinians have killed 743 fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, and 140 Israelis have died.

Israeli media said the youths

held police the Nov. 16 attack was in revenge for the November 1991 assassination of Rabbi Kahane in a New York City hotel.

The youths, who re-enacted the attack for police, were detained before dawn Sunday and ordered held 10 days by court order, reporters and police said. Their names were not published because they are minors.

Three suspects are 17 and a third is 16, the national Islam news agency said. One is from a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and the others are from Jerusalem, it said.

They belong to the "Kahane Chai" movement, founded after Kahane's assassination, Ben-Ruby said.

In the attack, an armful-issue fragmentation grenade was hurled into a narrow alley in Jerusalem's old walled city, killing Razek Adiq, 62, of Al Ram north of Jerusalem and wounding another eight Palestinians.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1993

COLUMN

Rumours that Deng has cancer 'totally groundless'

PEKING (AFP) — China denied as "totally groundless" Tuesday a report that paramount leader Deng Xiaoping had undergone surgery for testicular cancer. "This report is totally groundless," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The Japanese newspaper, Yomiuri Shimbun, had reported Thursday that Mr. Deng, who will be 89 next month, was receiving treatment at home following an operation last month in a Peking hospital. Mr. Deng was still working, but only on very important matters, the newspaper said. It said news of Mr. Deng's illness and operation were obtained from army officials. Taiwan's official Central News Agency (CNA), in a dispatch from Peking Tuesday, quoted Cheng Siyan, 85-year-old vice chairman of the National People's Congress, as denying that Mr. Deng had undergone any cancer treatment. Mr. Deng swims quite often and that has contributed to his good health, Mr. Cheng said in the CNA report. Cheng also told CNA that Taiwan authorities should allow Mr. Deng's son, Deng Pufang, who heads China's handicapped association, to visit the island.

Cuban stowaways travel to Miami in style

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — A Cuban family casually boarded a cruise ship and, without paying, enjoyed four days as normal tourists before they arrived here and asked for political asylum. The Royal Caribbean Cruise Line said, "We'll be looking very closely at how they were able to get on." Rich Steck, the company's director of public relations, said Monday. The